Senate coup threat over; Drilon stays

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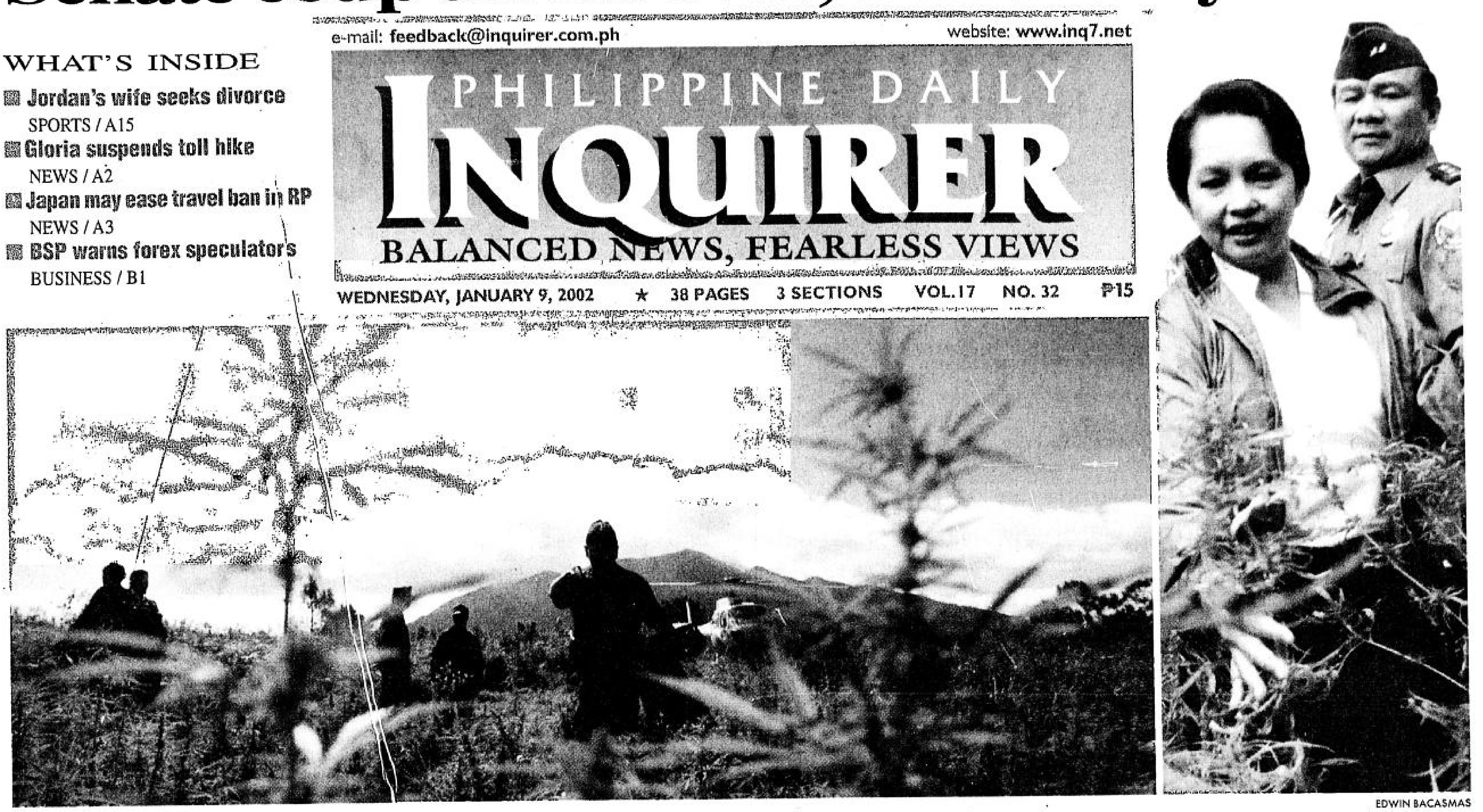


EDWIN BACASMAS

HOW GREEN IS THE VALLEY
Lush growth of first-class marijuana in Barangay Ahin, Tinoc, Ifugao, is uprooted by President Macapagal and PNP anti-narcotics chief Efren Fernandez during her tour of the Mountain Province on Monday.

Solon justifies past coups

Magsaysay says military highly politicized

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA AND ALCUIN PAPA

MILITARY involvement in overthrowing the government is justified if the people themselves cannot rise as one in seeking dramatic reforms, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay said yesterday.

Magsaysay, who chairs the Senate committee on defense and national security, made the statement in explaining the role of the military in past changes in administrations.

He stressed that he was not condoning military involvement in the supposed coup plot against the administration but was merely commenting on why the military had been engaged in this kind of endeavor.

The senator acknowledged that the military was highly politicized and that its involvement in any major political decision was actually a "judgment call" on the part of its leaders.

"This is what you call extra-constitutional initiative," he said. "If the people themselves cannot rise up as one because they are being cheated, then the military can justify its move."

Magsaysay said this was evident in the people power revolts that ousted Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada, respectively, and installed Corazon Aquino and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as Presidents.

He noted that some factions in the military who were loyal to Estrada also took part in the so-called "Edsa Tres."

Magsaysay said this only proved that the military had been consis-

SOLON/ A13

GMA-FVR RIFT

'Under a democracy everything possible'

BY CARLITO PABLO

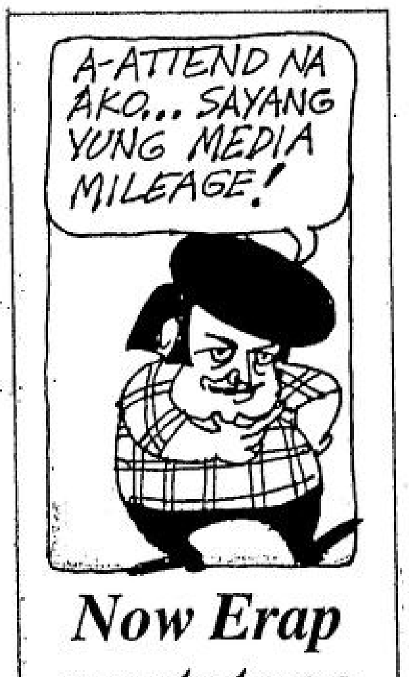
THE RULING Lakas yesterday scrambled to put up a façade of unity, with its secretary general, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, holding a surprise press conference in Malacañang to say that all's well in the party.

But Alvarez admitted that they were not sure whether former President Fidel V. Ramos, the party's founder and chair emeritus, would endorse President Macapagal-Arroyo as Lakas standard-bearer in the 2004 presidential election.

"Under a democracy everything is possible," he said when asked whether Ramos would endorse another candidate for president.

He said he did not have the "vision of a prophet," and added that what he was sure of was that if an

UNDER/ A4


A-ATTEND NA AKO... SAYANG YUNG MEDIA MILEAGE!

Now Erap wants to go to his trial

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

A FEW months back, deposed President Joseph Estrada grumbled about being required to attend every hearing of his trial on plunder charges.

NOW/ A13

Lastimoso vows to zap fixers, belchers

BY AGNES E. DONATO AND ABIGAIL L. HO

IT WAS a day of the generals at the Land Transportation Office yesterday, when a former Philippine National Police chief formally replaced a former rebel general in a hastily scheduled changing of the guard.

Retired Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina said he was leaving the LTO with his head held high and "without any feeling of sadness," even as he welcomed his successor, former PNP Deputy Director General Roberto Lastimoso. Lastimoso pledged to exercise "political will" to rid the office of fixers and to investigate allegations of anomalies at the LTO.

"I will look into the allegations so as to put to rest the doubts of the public, and hopefully to clear General Abenina's name," he said.

Abenina admitted he was taken by surprise by the turnover ceremony, saying he was informed that Lastimoso would take his oath be-

LASTIMOSO/ A13

JOAN BONDOC

A MAMMOTH crowd is expected today in Quiapo Church, the feast of the Black Nazarene, one of this Catholic country's most celebrated expressions of piety. The WPD traffic and security preparations are in place for the usually chaotic procession. *(Story in Metro section, A17.)*

Nur's 1st wish: 'Halal' chicken cooked in jail

BY TJ BURGONIO, DELFIN MALLARI AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

STA. ROSA, Laguna—A chicken slaughtered and cooked right inside his cell was the first request of Nur Misuari on the first day of his detention at Fort Sto. Domingo here.

"What he asked for was that those in charge of his kitchen bring a live chicken so that it could be slaughtered in the name of Allah," said Panangan Pangandaman, one of the first visitors of Misuari a day after the Moro renegade leader was deported from Malaysia.

Pangandaman, chair of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) chapter in Metro Manila, said Misuari was thankful that a cook assigned to him was from Marawi City.

"So it's good because he can cook whatever Misuari orders," he told reporters of the cook whose family is known to Misuari.

Besides the chicken, Misuari asked that he be allowed to jog and do brisk walking outside his cell, according to Pangandaman.

"He's not used to (being just confined in one place). He used to walk during the construction of roads (while he was still governor of the ARMM)," Pangandaman said.

Aside from Pangandaman, six former MNLF commanders, residing in the Muslim community in Maharlika Village in Bicutan, Taguig, and ARMM Rep. Zenaida Bubon, were among those who visited Misuari.

Misuari is temporarily being held inside a bungalow originally built for indicted President Joseph Estrada, who stayed there with son

NUR'S/ A5

3 hostages rescued; 12 kidnappers nabbed

BY ANTHONY S. ALLADA AND ALLAN A. NAWAL
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Hundreds of soldiers and policemen yesterday raided the two hideouts of a kidnap gang, captured 12 suspected kidnappers and rescued their three women hostages, including the scion of a wealthy family.

Ma. Cecilia Bonifacio, 25, daughter of a big car dealer in Davao City, was freed, together with her secretaries Fe Jayno and Norma Wong, at around 3 p.m. in Barangay Lapulabao, Hagonoy, Davao del Sur.

Supt. Guillermo Lara, Davao del Sur police chief, said seven suspected kidnappers were arrested after a brief shootout in Hagonoy. Five of their suspected accomplices were earlier arrested in Digos City.

Bonifacio said she and her secretaries were on their way to the office on Jan. 3 when several armed men blocked her blue RAV-4 sports utility vehicle and motioned her to pull over.

"They introduced themselves as

3 HOSTAGES/ A13

Uncooperative victims hamper campaign

BY JERRY ESPLANADA

(Last of three parts)

RECRUITMENT VULTURES
An I TEAM Report

IN THE LAST 10 years, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration has filed 639 cases of illegal recruitment in various courts.

As of this writing, however, only 66 illegal recruiters recommended for prosecution by the POEA have been convicted of the criminal offense.

Some victims of illegal recruiters have blamed the courts for the "slowness and (an) inefficient justice system." But National Bureau of Investigation and POEA officials said victims were also to blame for the "low conviction rate."

According to Ferdinand Lavin, head of the NBI Anti-Illegal Recruitment Division, "there are still principled (victims) who really want to send those who victimized them to jail. But many victims in illegal recruitment cases, big and small, do not really demand that illegal recruiters pay in blood."

"The mindset of many victims is this: all I'm after is getting my money back. Confronted by job applicants, many illegal recruiters tend to buy time by resorting to various delaying tactics. Still, the applicants don't mind waiting for a long time as long as they get the same amount," Lavin said.

"To some degree," he added, "the bureau has been made a collection agent by the victims."

"Some victims would push for the filing of

UNCOOPERATIVE/ A13

Second FRONT PAGE

MABUTI NAMAN!

Gloria suspends toll hike

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday suspended for one week the new toll rates in the North Luzon and South expressways.

The suspension will take effect after midnight tonight. The President gave the order during the Cabinet meeting yesterday.

According to a Palace statement, Ms Macapagal ordered the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) and the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) to justify the toll increases.

The Palace press statement clearly indicated that the suspension of the increases will be for one week. But it also said the old toll rates would be observed "until such time when the Cabinet, sitting as a whole, has deliberated on the issue and after the PNCC and the TRB have rendered their complete report to justify the increases," the Palace said.

No one was available in Malacañang to clarify this.

The TRB and the PNCC last week jacked up the toll rates by 36 to 60 percent.

The Palace move came even as the Supreme Court on Monday ordered the PNCC and the TRB to explain the toll increases.

The high court's third division gave the two government agencies three days to answer the petition for temporary restraining order filed by lawyer Ceferino Padua. *Dona Pazzibugan*

Senate coup threat over; Drilon stays

By Cynthia D. Balana

A WEEK before Congress reopens, administration senators have pronounced the threatened coup against Senate President Franklin Drilon as having lost steam.

"The brew is cold," said Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., as he spoke admiringly of the way Drilon handled the latest challenge to his leadership.

"(Drilon) is focused on legislative measures, he's focused on better governance. And we (administration senators) support him," Magsaysay said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. revealed last week that a leadership change was looming in the Senate, claiming that two "disenchanted" administration senators were ready to bolt the majority.

A shift in allegiance by just two administration senators would tilt the balance in favor of the opposition which has 11 senators against the majority's 13.

Drilon has dismissed Pimentel's revelations as "the most publicized coup plot (in the Senate) in the past six months."

Magsaysay said the majority coalition still had the numbers and expressed confidence that none of its members would jump ship.

While some senators from the majority might be approached by the minority to solicit support for certain legislative measures, this does not mean the majority members would switch parties, he said.

"Why give up the comfort of a bed for the hard floor?" Magsaysay said in Filipino.

Another administration senator, Sen. Ralph Recto, said a change in the Senate leadership now would only further destabilize the country, in the face of reports of alleged coup threats against the Macapagal administration.

"It is better that there'll be no new Senate President when we open on Monday, considering the different events that have happened like the killing of (self-styled rebel Army officer Baron) Cervantes," Recto said.

Drilon himself expressed confidence that no change of leadership would take place on Monday, contrary to what opposition senators are claiming.

"They can always dream. I don't expect any changes," he said yesterday.

It was learned that Drilon and opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña have made some attempts to recruit two more senators from the minority.

But Drilon has refused to confirm this.

"I will not telegraph my answers," he said.

"As I said, and as Sen. John Osmeña has said, this is not a one-way street. But we would prefer to work on our legislative agenda rather than engage in a tug-of-war."

Drilon also said he would honor his commitment to yield the Senate leadership to Sen. Renato Cayetano next year.

Under an agreement forged during the intense rivalry for the Senate presidency last year, Drilon is to serve as Senate president for one and a half years while Cayetano will serve the remainder of the three-year term.

Roco: 'Press czar' misunderstood job

By Donna S. Cueto
and Carlito Pablo

EDUCATION Secretary Raul Roco yesterday castigated Press Undersecretary Manuel Sanchez for "misunderstanding" his role as chief media coordinator for all government agencies.

"He does not seem to understand the President, the Constitution or administrative law," Roco said.

He said Sanchez should know that he would be violating the Constitution if he insists on being the "clearinghouse" for all press releases and other information issued by various government departments and agencies to the press.

"What I know is that the order from the President was that he should help the government agencies which are not appearing in the news," Roco said.

The order is for us to publicize and inform the public about the good things being done in the department, he explained.

Roco said that he would definitely not ask permission from Sanchez for any press statements he would give, nor would he discuss with him anything that he planned to discuss in press briefings.

"The President calls me and supervises me, but I have control and supervision over everybody else," Roco said.

"(Sanchez) would not understand our issues. How can he know?" he said.

The education secretary, however, seemed unaware that the President had directed all Cabinet members to coordinate with Sanchez on all press information so government would "speak in one voice."

This was contained in the President's Memorandum Order No. 49 signed on Dec. 13, and addressed to all heads of government departments and agencies.

In a related development, it was learned yesterday that the President has directed the transfer of the Philippine Information Agency from the Office of the Press Secretary to the Presidential Management Staff.

Ms Macapagal issued the order on Dec. 16, three days after signing the memorandum that created the "information clearinghouse" under Sanchez.

The PIA used to be under the supervision of Roberto Capco, the press undersecretary for operations.

PMS Secretary Sylvestre Afable has been designated PIA officer in charge in the absence of a regular appointee to replace former PIA chief Dave Gomez.

"This is only temporary," said Press Secretary Noel Cabrera, as he explained the reason for the new setup.

Polio relapse: 12M children to be vaccinated

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the vaccination of 12 million Filipino children following the discovery of three new cases of polio, a year after the Philippines declared itself free of the virus.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said the three separate cases monitored last year were from a "mutant strain" of the virus.

The wild strain of the virus was eliminated from the Philippines a year earlier, he said over dzBB radio.

The President has since issued a proclamation ordering the health department to administer oral vaccines to all children not more than 59 months old on Feb. 2 to 8 and again on March 2 to 8, Dayrit said.

"We need to reach the 12 million target to eradicate the mutant polio strain," he added.

Poliomyelitis, or polio, is an acute viral disease caused by the polio virus. It is characterized by fever, motor paralysis and atrophy of skeletal muscles, often leading to permanent disability and deformity.

Dayrit said the disease was acquired through contaminated food or water. Toddlers are particularly vulnerable, he added.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday expressed alarm over the resurgence of polio cases and urged government to refocus its budgetary priorities by raising spending on primary health care.

The detection of three cases of the mutated polio virus in Cagayan de Oro, Laguna and Cavite has shattered the country's reputation as the only polio-free country in the Western Pacific region.

Angara said the substantial drop in the budget for preventive health care has hampered the eradication of the disease.

The 2000 budget for preventive health care was P3.5 billion while the 2002 appropriation was only P2.8 billion.

He said the budget for health services for 2001 was only 2.15 percent of the national budget. For 2002, the percentage share was only 1.86 percent. *AFP with a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

Baguio cops hunt Italian for rape

BAGUIO CITY—Police have launched a manhunt for an Italian man who is a suspect in the rape of a Filipina girl, an officer said yesterday.

The suspect was identified Mauro Diamante, 58.

The suspect allegedly raped the 12-year-old stepdaughter of a Filipino friend in Baguio last year when he was staying at the friend's house.

The Baguio police criminal investigation chief, Supt. Generoso Bonifacio, said they were checking whether Diamante had fled the country.

The Philippines and Italy do not have an extradition treaty.

Diamante arrived in Baguio in October, but the alleged rape was discovered only last month when the victim told her mother about the assault, police said.

By that time the suspect had left the house of his hosts, telling them he was going abroad, Bonifacio said. *AFP*

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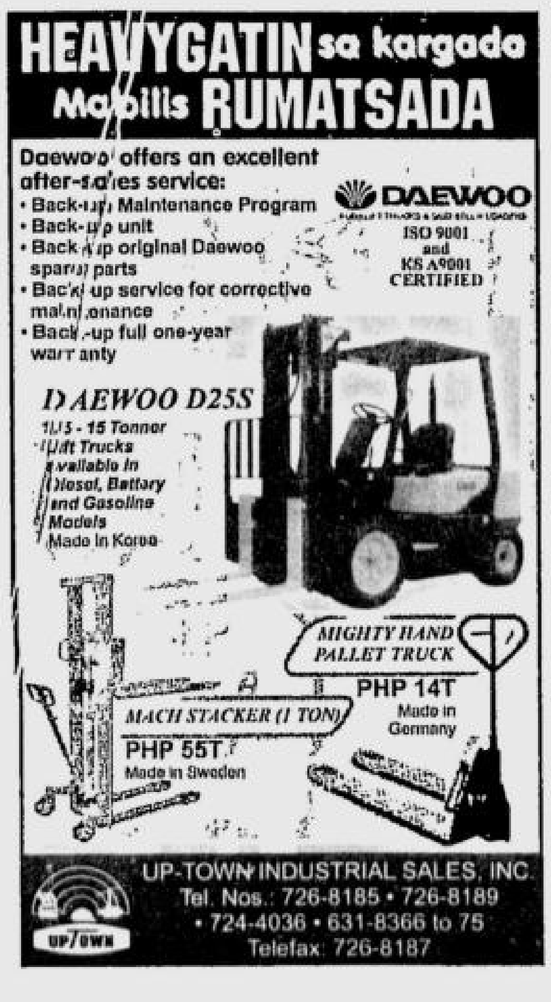
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Japan may ease travel ban in RP

DAVAO CITY—Japan may lift travel restrictions for its citizens covering parts of the Philippines, an official said yesterday on the eve of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visit to Manila.

The Japanese consul in this city, Kiyoshi Suwa, wrote to the city council last week that the Japanese foreign ministry was studying lifting the travel advisory "considering the present Mindanao peace and order security situation," said council member Peter Lavina.

Tokyo in October warned its citizens not to travel to the Philippines, which it lumped in the same category as Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq among others.

Filipino officials said the country stood to lose $4 million in daily tourist receipts because of the advisory. President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration has since appealed to Tokyo to lift the warning.

Mindanao is home to a number of Muslim separatist rebel groups and kidnap gangs that prey on foreign tourists and religious missionaries.

Lavina said Japanese tourists make up the largest foreign visitor group to Davao, the biggest city in Mindanao with 1.1 million people.

He said Suwa told the Davao city council that "as indicated in my earlier statements, the Consular Office of Japan in Davao wishes that the security warnings leveled on Davao, as well as on other Mindanao areas, be lifted as the situation improves."

Koizumi will make an overnight visit to Manila today on the first leg of a Southeast Asian tour.

Lavina said the Davao council had appealed to the Japanese Embassy to include the city in Koizumi's itinerary, but that it was told he did not have time to visit it.

"I wish to note the great difficulty of arranging for the prime minister's state visit to the city of Davao due to pre-arranged schedules," Suwa said in his letter.

But he said that Koizumi may mention in his official statements in Manila the centennial celebration of the arrival of the first Japanese in Davao.

A small group of Japanese settled in Davao in 1902, according to city historian Ernesto Corsino. *AFP*

No more freebies, gov't travelers told

By Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG has ordered all government officials and employees to turn down travels funded either fully or partially by private contractors and suppliers of goods, equipment and services.

The directive was contained in a memorandum signed by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, which covers all heads of departments, bureaus, national and local government units, government-owned and -controlled corporations, financial institutions, and state colleges and universities.

It is a normal practice by local and foreign contractors to invite agency heads and officials for supposed inspections where they are wined and dined.

Romulo's memorandum was a reiteration of a memorandum issued by then President Joseph Estrada on Oct. 20, 1999, which aimed to "ensure utmost impartiality and objectivity in the award of contracts for the purchase and delivery of goods, equipment and services."

The same Estrada memorandum said this prohibition is "in line with the state policy to promote a high standard of ethics in the public service."

In his own memorandum, Romulo said the reiteration of this directive is also in line with efforts to "promote and secure strict and faithful compliance... with various policy pronouncements on austerity measures including expenditure of public funds for foreign travels."

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'Under a democracy everything possible'

(From page A1)

election were held now, Ramos would endorse Ms Macapagal.

"She's very much assured of 100-percent support if there is an election tomorrow. FVR will endorse her," Alvarez said.

Asked why he could not say that Ramos would go for Ms Macapagal all the way to 2004, he said this would be a "game of speculation."

"I want to bear down on the facts as they are now," he said.

Alvarez also disowned Salvador Enriquez, a trusted lieutenant of Ramos who had assailed the President for supposedly being obsessed with her election in 2004.

"Mr. Enriquez has nothing to do with us," Alvarez said of Ramos' former budget and finance secretary.

Ramos has said that he was not planning to seek another term in 2004, but he cited a "gray area" in the 1987 Constitution that supposedly allows ex-presidents to run again after a six-year interval.

Playing coy

The President, considered Lakas' nominal leader on account of her status, has played coy about her intentions in 2004. But if she decides to run, the party could possibly break up if Ramos does not endorse her because its chair, Speaker Jose de Venecia, is very much identified with the former president.

Alvarez, however, pointed out that it was not the "time for anointment."

"Why call it anointment season when it's a season for working hard for development?" he said.

Asked if Ramos would endorse a candidate for president, Alvarez said: "Oh definitely."

Where's Tiglao?

The Malacañang press corps learned of Alvarez's press conference through a notice posted on its bulletin board.

But Alvarez, who accompanied the President earlier in the day in his home province of Isabela, claimed he could not remember who had ordered him to talk to the press.

He went on to say that it was certain Malacañang reporters who sought a briefing when they spotted him in the Palace grounds.

Rigoberto Tiglao, the President's spokesperson who normally accompanies administration officials at briefings for the Malacañang press corps, was conspicuously absent this time.

Alvarez said Enriquez—chair of the People's Consultative Assembly, which has accused the First Couple of corruption—could "say the wildest thing" because it was allowed in a democracy.

He defended the President from Enriquez's criticism that she was placing her election over and above the country's interests and that one manifestation of this was her continuing barnstorming nationwide.

"A good statesman must be a good politician, and a good politician must be a good statesman," he said in justifying the President's travels.

Alvarez also dismissed continuing talks that certain Lakas members were themselves involved in destabilization efforts.

Of the earlier assertion made by Supt. Rafael Cardeño, chair of the Young Officers Union, that the murder of self-styled YOU spokesperson Baron Cervantes was the handiwork of "patricians of the Macapagal administration," Alvarez said: "This is the wildest and woolliest political story spun off."

He insisted that Lakas was united in viewing the President as the "best fulfillment of our dreams and aspirations of a leader."

Part of the job

At Camp Melchor de la Cruz in Isabela, Ms Macapagal said her frequent trips to various parts of the country were part of her job.

"Campaigning?" she told reporters. "This is not a campaign. *Kung hindi ako pupunta rito babatikusin din ninyo ako, hindi ba* (If I didn't come here, you'll also criticize me, right)? Isn't it part of the job of a President to visit the people? When the President does her job, you say she is campaigning. So whatever it is, I will always be berated whether I go out or stay in Malacañang doing nothing."

In the past three weeks, the President has visited Baguio City, Mt. Province, Albay, Cotabato City, Ifugao, Kalinga, Isabela, Sorsogon and other areas to inaugurate livelihood, social and infrastructure projects.

The opposition has described these trips as a "full-throttle campaign" in preparation for the 2004 election.

But Ms Macapagal said: "I might as well do what I should do, and do anything for the people."

She said her trips were not aimed at getting votes because she had been visiting remote areas with very few voters.

Only 50 voters

"You see, like in Divilacan (a coastal town in Isabela), will I go there to woo votes?" she said in Taglish, in between bouts of laughter. "How many voters are there in that town? I heard that the mayor there won with only 50 votes."

The President said she was happy to be in Isabela because she had been visiting the province since she was a senator.

"I feel very much at home here," she said. "I'm so glad to see the mayors of the towns I had been to. I came here because the anniversary of my becoming president is approaching. I know that all Isabelinos cannot go (to Manila), so I came here to celebrate in advance."

Ms Macapagal assumed the presidency on Jan. 20 last year after the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada. ***With a report from Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

2 Alvarezes not on Palace list

By Cynthia D. Balana

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez are not on the list of Cabinet secretaries and government officials who have been reappointed by Malacañang.

Those with no reappointment papers are considered technically bypassed by the Commission on Appointments which last convened on Dec. 22.

But the CA said the reappointments of the two Alvarezes could still be submitted before it resumes sessions next week.

Those reappointed by the President were Science Secretary Estrella Alabastro, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, Press Secretary Noel Cabrera, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

Also reappointed were Civil Service Commission Chair Karina David, Commission on Elections Chair Alfredo Benipayo, Commission on Elections Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuazon, and Regino Hermosisima Jr. as member of the Judicial and Bar Council representing the Retired Justices of the Supreme Court.

The list of ad interim reappointments and the letters of the President and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo dated Dec. 23 on this matter were received by the CA Secretariat and forwarded to Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Quimpo, 49

JOJO Quimpo, a member of the Tau Gamma Phi Fraternity of UP Diliman, passed away Monday. He was 49.

Quimpo, who belonged to the 1971 UP Tau Gamma Batch Condor, succumbed to heart failure at the Makati Medical Center after a serious ailment.

He is survived by his loving wife, Oyie and two children, Joel and Donna. Quimpo's family owns the Cagayan Colleges Tuguegarao in Cagayan.

His remains lie at the St. Alphonsus Memorial Chapels, Magallanes.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, January 9, 2002
Week After Epiphany

1st Reading:	**1 Jn 4:11-18**
Gospel:	**Mk 6:45-52**

After the five thousand men were satiated, Jesus obliged his disciples to get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, toward Bethsaida, while he himself sent the crowd away. And having sent the people off, he went by himself to the hillside to pray.

When evening came, the boat was far out on the lake while he was alone on the land. Jesus saw his disciples straining at the oars, for the wind was against them, and before daybreak he came to them walking on the lake; and he was going to pass them by.

When they saw him walking on the lake, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; for they all saw him and were terrified. But at once he called to them, "Courage! It's me; don't be afraid." Then Jesus got into the boat with them and the wind died down. They were completely astonished, for they had not really grasped the fact of the loaves; their minds were dull.

Commentary

Jesus went off into the hills alone to pray. This is who he is, a person in intimate relationship with God. After praying, he is closer to his disciples and present to them as they struggle to row against the wind. Though near, he is not recognized and they cry out in fear. Jesus reassures them, and as they see the wind and sea grow calm again the disciples are astonished and baffled. Mark presents the disciples as slow to understand who Jesus is and what he is doing. Perhaps this can give us encouragement: what matters is to stay with Jesus, to hang in there, rather than to have all the answers and understand everything.

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CRIMINAL LAW (MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Passion and obfuscation—The mitigating circumstance of passion and obfuscation is also not obtaining. For this mitigating circumstance to be considered, it must be shown that: (1) an unlawful act sufficient to produce passion and obfuscation was committed by the intended victim; (2) that the crime was committed within a reasonable length of rime from the commission of the unlawful act that produced the obfuscation in the accused's mind; and that (3) the passion and obfuscation arose from lawful sentiments and not from a spirit of lawlessness or revenge. Private complainant's act of shouting at the appellant's son, who was then a nurse and of legal age, is not sufficient to produce passion and obfuscation as it is claimed by the accused. Besides, the appellant's son was shouting back at private complainant. It was not a case wherein the appellant's son appeared helpless and oppressed that the appellant lost his reason and shot at the FX of the complainant. The same holds true for the appellant's claim of provocation on the part of the private complainant. Provocation must be sufficient to excite a person to commit a wrong committed and that the provocation must be commensurate to the crime committed. The sufficiency of provocation varies according to the circumstances of the case. The aggressive behavior of the private complainant toward the appellant and his son may be demeaning or humiliating but it is not sufficient to shoot at the complainant's vehicle. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, *En Banc*, People v. Gonzalez, Jr., G.R. No. 139542, June 21, 2001]

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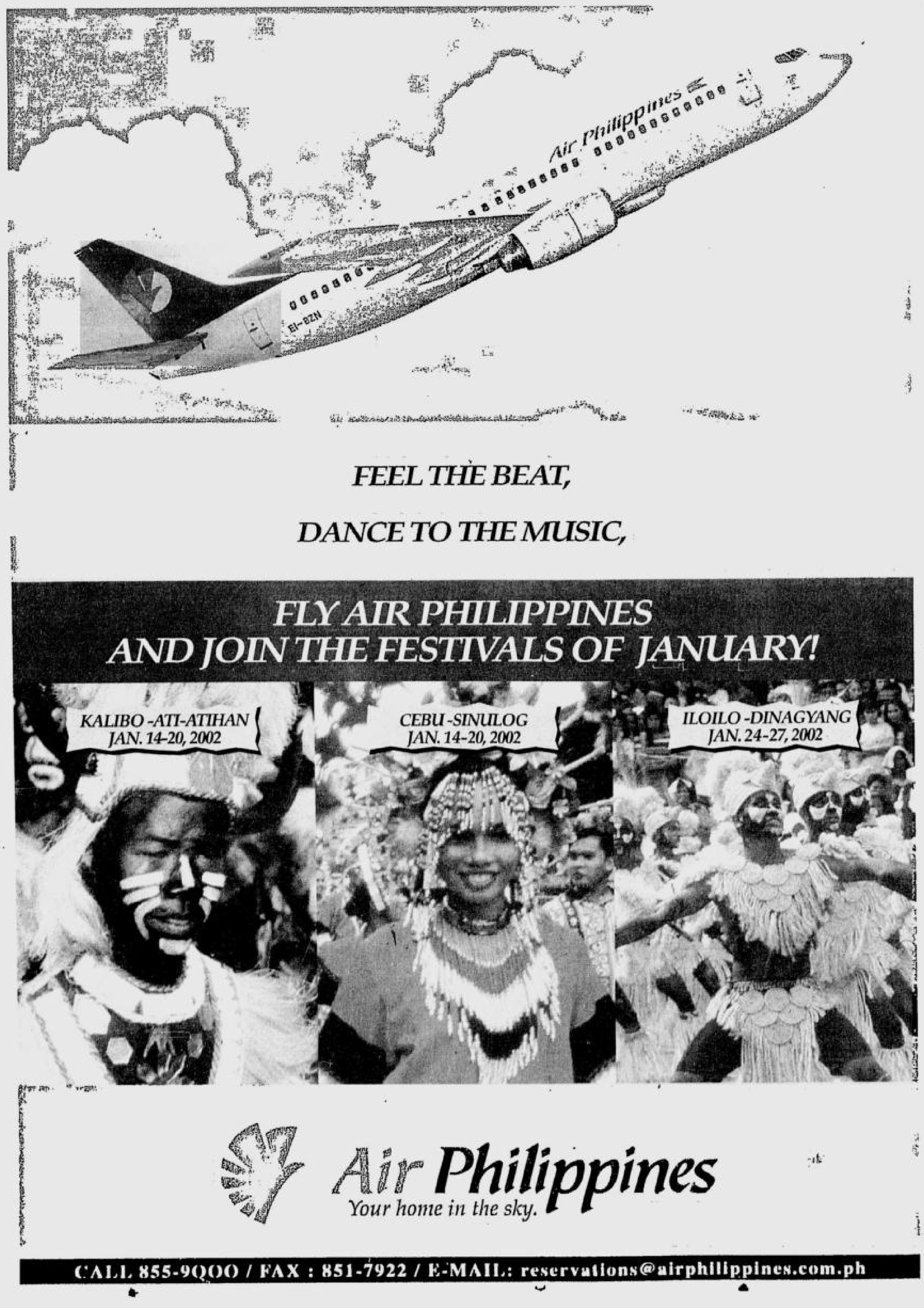
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Misuari wives sore at Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—The wives of Nur Misuari criticized Malaysian authorities Tuesday for deporting their husband to his home country to face rebellion charges.

"We are emotionally distraught and drained," Tarhata and Roida Misuari said in a statement issued by their Malaysian lawyer, Sankara Nair. "We could not believe that the Malaysian government would act in this way."

Nair told reporters that the wives were "seriously considering" whether to sue the Malaysian government for compensation for deporting Nur Misuari, who was returned to Manila Monday.

The wives—under Islamic religious laws men can marry more one than once—claim Misuari's deportation was illegal.

"They have a right to sue," Nair said, without spelling out what grounds they might have. "They have to seek justice."

Both women are staying temporarily in Kuala Lumpur. Tarhata has applied to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to help her procure political asylum in a third country.

Malaysian authorities arrested Misuari and several supporters on Nov. 24 when they arrived illegally by boat on a Malaysian beach off Borneo, fleeing a brief uprising he allegedly sparked in the Philippines.

Misuari's wives claim that the Philippine military caused the violence by trying to disarm his forces without giving valid reasons.

Philippine authorities say about 600 Misuari supporters attacked an Army base on the southern island of Jolo in November, setting off clashes that killed more than 100 people, mostly Misuari supporters. *AP*

Taguig folk cry: Not in our backyard

TAGUIG residents yesterday slammed the government for making the town's Camp Bagong Diwa a "dumping ground for terrorists."

The residents were up in arms following the detention of six followers of Nur Misuari in the camp, immediately after the renegade Moro rebel leader was sent back to the country on Monday.

"We lament the fact that the municipal government was never consulted on these matters despite the security risks that they pose," Mayor Sigfrido Tinga said in a statement.

The mayor has asked Benjamin Abalos, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, to keep the national government from "dumping" suspected terrorists in Taguig.

Misuari's followers—Bakil Annay Harun, Johan Sawadjaan San Sanzibar, Akil Abduraham Abdur, Uddin Esguerra Ishmael, Gamar Bin Abd. Razak, and Omar Bin Abdullah—were sent straight to Camp Bagong Diwa upon their arrival at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City the other day.

The six men were with Misuari and Abu Harris Oman when Philippine authorities fetched the former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in Malaysia to face rebellion charges here.

Misuari and Oman, Misuari's spiritual adviser, are detained at Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Last year, residents protested the transfer of Hector Janjalani, brother of Abu Sayyaf leader Khadafy Janjalani, to Camp Bagong Diwa.

Nur's 1st wish: 'Halal' chicken cooked in jail

(From page A1)

Jinggoy Estrada until the Estradas were transferred to a hospital in Quezon City when he fell ill last year.

The bungalow is furnished with a TV, a refrigerator and an electric fan.

Joseph Estrada

Misuari and Estrada may have to share the same detention facility while the courts are hearing the separate criminal charges lodged against them.

Misuari is facing rebellion charges for allegedly ordering an attack on military outposts in Jolo, Sulu, in November last year in an attempt to stop the holding of elections for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday asked the Supreme Court to transfer the venue for the trial of Misuari from Jolo to Metro Manila, preferably inside Fort Santiago.

In a motion he filed with the high court, Perez said transferring the venue for the trial to Laguna was necessary because of the risks posed by Misuari's supporters in Sulu.

Branch 3 of the Regional Trial Court of Sulu, where the rebellion charges were filed against Misuari and 17 others, has territorial jurisdiction of the cases.

"(But it is) the only court in the province (which) sits in the heartland of Misuari and his armed followers' bailiwick. Government witnesses and court personnel consider these as insurmountable risk factors," Perez said.

Perez said the Supreme Court could designate a trial judge, who will try the rebellion charges inside the fort. "But if it can't be done inside (the fort), the hearings should be conducted within the town proper of Sta. Rosa," the justice secretary said.

"We can pay for the transportation of the witnesses," he said.

If the motion is granted, Misuari will have to temporarily share the bungalow with Estrada and his son.

The possibility that Misuari will share the same detention facility with the Estradas loomed after the prosecution panel headed by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto asked the Sandiganbayan to transfer the Estradas from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City to Fort Sto. Domingo.

Desierto said he filed the motion on Monday because, "there is no more need for the Estradas to stay inside the military hospital."

He said the Estradas, who are under preventive detention, should stay in a detention facility and not in a hospital as mandated by law.

Misuari wants trial in Luzon

Pangandaman said the trial could be held in Luzon.

"Misuari and I have the same position on that. It can be held anywhere," he said.

Misuari insisted that he was innocent of the rebellion charges filed against him even as he expressed readiness to stand trial anywhere.

"As far as he is concerned he had nothing to do with the rebellion," Pangandaman said of Misuari.

"As a matter of fact, government emissaries had gone to him and asked him to surrender (at the height of the assault). He replied, 'Why would I surrender? I have not done anything,'" Pangandaman said.

Asked why Misuari had fled to Malaysia following the assault, Pangandaman said: "He had to, for his own safety. Three helicopters were hovering over them and started bombing the area."

Misuari was arrested in Malaysia on Nov. 24 last year for illegal entry.

Though he claimed innocence, Misuari nevertheless has requested Pangandaman to find "the best (defense) lawyers."

Pangandaman allayed fears that some of the nearly 200,000 MNLF members living in Metro Manila would launch an attack on the military training camp to rescue their leader.

"I bet you saw the MNLF commanders who were here. They're all under our control. No one moves without me knowing it," he said.

While Misuari still commands a big following, he and other Moro leaders would rather wage the battle in the courts, Pangandaman said.

A group of Muslims claims that Misuari loyalists do not pose a threat in Metro Manila.

"Misuari may be a Moro leader but his followers are not a big threat," said Jamal Latiph of the Manila-based Muslim Youth and National Assembly.

Healing process

In Zamboanga City, a Catholic priest suggested that President Macapagal-Arroyo be lenient on Misuari.

"Where's the promise of the President's healing process? This matter should not be plainly handled by the military or police," said Claretian missionary Angel Calvo, chair of the Peace Advocates Zamboanga.

Calvo said Misuari was a symbol of the "open wounds of Mindanao, he reflects the division, the conflict here."

The priest said that although there was no formula on how to "heal the wounds," government should show sincerity in addressing the problems of the Moro people.

Prof. Amilusin Jumaani, secretary general of Salam Peace Foundation, said the Misuari problem reflected the "400 years of Moro resistance against domestic and foreign colonialism."

Jumaani said the government should know the root causes of the Bangsamoro people. "Misuari is not the sole problem and he is not the sole solution of this problem," he said.

Speedy trial

An administration congressman called for a speedy trial for Misuari but an opposition legislator warned against "singling-out" the founder of the MNLF.

"Now that he's here, the government should put him on a speedy trial to stabilize the situation and put in place a policy on how to deal with similar problems in Mindanao," Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr. said.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen urged caution.

"The government has no choice but to prosecute Misuari but he should not be singled out," Dilangalen said.

Dilangalen warned that Misuari's followers could mount new rebellions if their leader was perceived to be under selective prosecution.

To prevent this, Dilangalen said the government should also charge the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and National Democratic Front rebels.

Misuari still commands 80 percent of the MNLF fighters and the Organization of the Islamic Conference still recognizes him as the MNLF leader, according to Dilangalen.

Exile

For this reason, Dilangalen had said it would be better for the country to send Misuari into exile.

In Isabela, Ms Macapagal said the repatriation of renegade Moro leader Nur Misuari to the country on Monday was "planned very well" amid the secrecy that attended the process.

"It appeared that no one knew about the details. Because (we planned it) very well. We did it with the utmost security precaution. Then, the people were just surprised that Misuari was back in the country," she told reporters at Camp Melchor de la Cruz Monday night.

The President said Misuari's return would defuse any threats of violence from his supporters. *With reports from Ben Moses Ebreo and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Tonette Orejas and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and Julie S. Alipala and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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11 pro-Misuari rebels killed in Sulu clash

By Martin P. Marfil

ELEVEN pro-Misuari rebels were killed and four Scout Rangers were wounded in a clash in Indanan, Sulu, yesterday.

The clash, according to Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, was a preemptive strike against the Misuari forces composed of Abu Sayyaf and Misuari Renegade Group members in the area.

"Government forces initiated the encounter as part of the continuing operations against the (ASG-MRG) in the area . . . to neutralize Galib Andang alias Commander Robot and Radulan Sahiron," Cimatu told defense reporters.

"Possibly, they were grouping but we launched a preemptive action," he said.

Sketchy reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo revealed that members of the 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion clashed with about 50 pro-Misuari forces around 3 p.m. in Sitio Tubig Samin, Barangay Karawan, Indanan, Sulu.

Cimatu, hours before the clash, said that they expected pro-Misuari forces to mass up in protest against the detention of former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Nur Misuari.

Misuari is detained in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. He was flown back to the country from Malaysia to face rebellion charges before the local courts.

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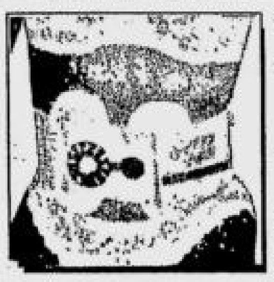

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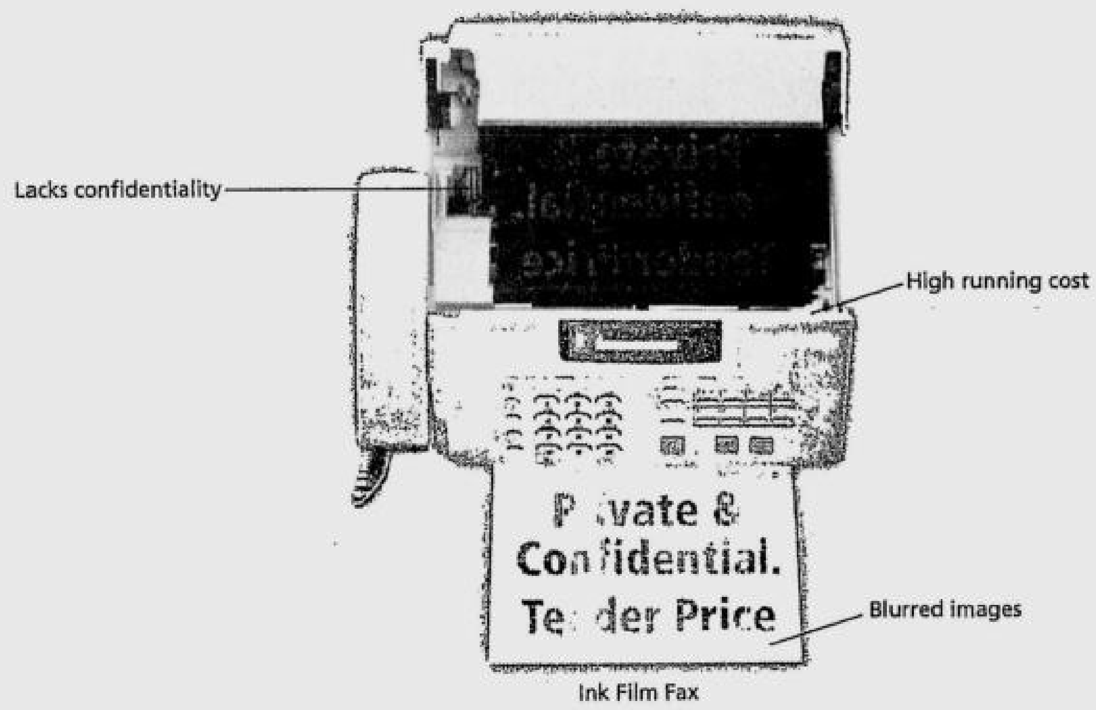

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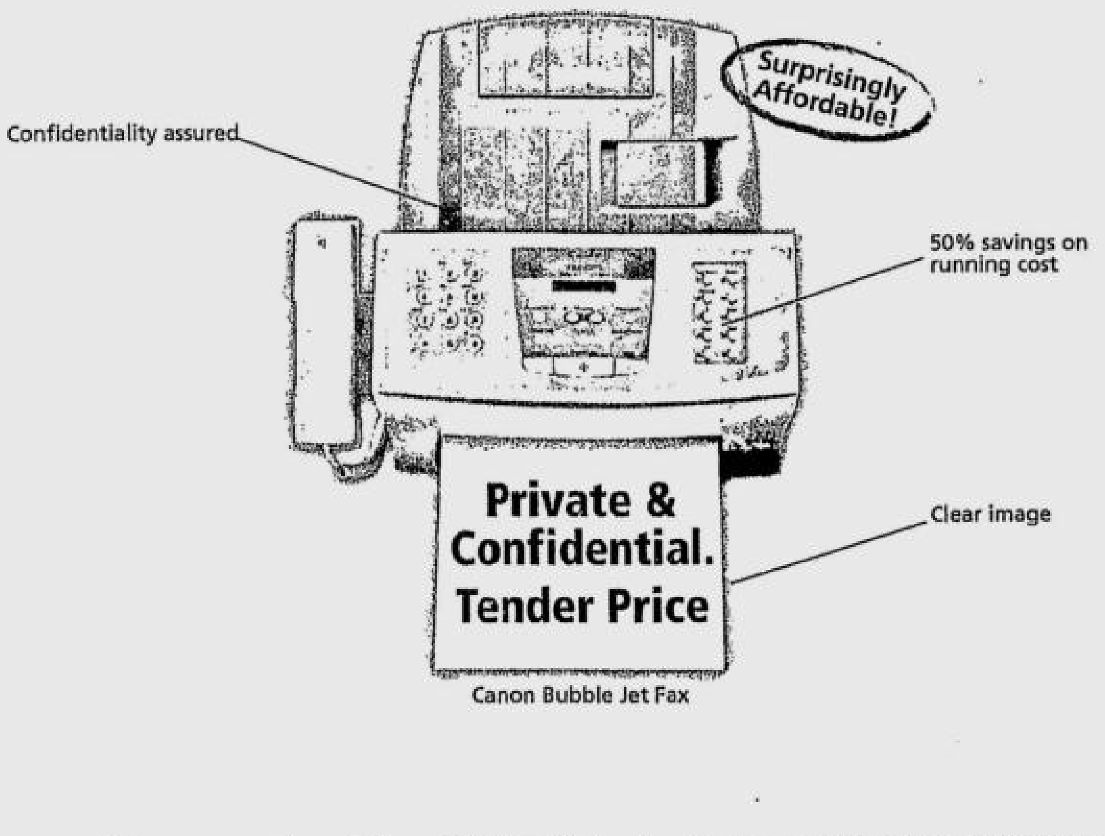
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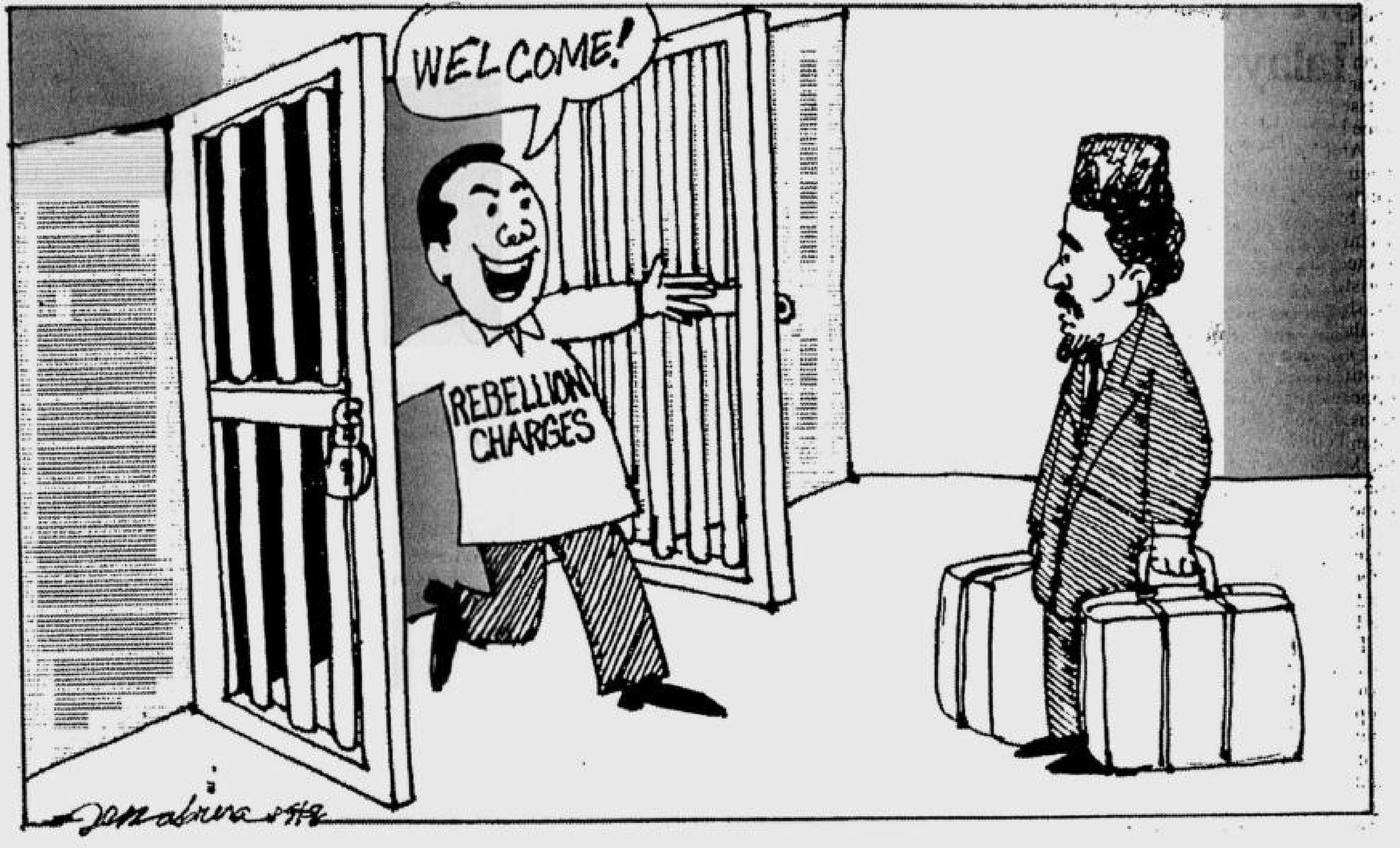

Fear of ghosts

EDITORIAL

NUR Misuari is finally right where he should be: in jail, here in the Philippines. The renegade former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao was deported from Malaysia Monday and was immediately brought back to the Philippines aboard a Philippine Air Force plane. His deportation ended an increasingly embarrassing episode for the Philippines that was also beginning to sour its relations with Malaysia.

Misuari, who proved to be a dismal failure as governor, tried to reignite his separatist war in Mindanao in November last year after the government decided to go ahead with the holding of the long postponed ARMM elections and the Macapagal administration dropped him as its official candidate. The uprising staged by Misuari's faction of the Moro National Liberation Front was quickly crushed, but not before more than 100 persons lay dead in Jolo and several other towns in Sulu. With his forces on the run, Misuari fled. He was captured by Malaysian authorities on the island of Jampiras on Nov. 24.

Top Philippine officials announced that they would be happy if Malaysia would throw the book at Misuari either for violation of its draconian Internal Security Act or for his alleged links to the Abu Sayyaf bandits who raided the Sipadan resort in 2000 and took 21 tourists and resort workers hostage. Malaysian authorities said they had no case against Misuari, and dropped broad hints that they were uncomfortable with having Misuari in their custody. The Philippine government only understood the message when Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad warned that Malaysia would send Misuari to a third country if the Philippines didn't take him back.

Rebuffed in its attempt to let Malaysia handle the problem, the government apparently gave some serious thought to the idea of letting Misuari seek foreign asylum. Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said asylum was "a real option." Last week, newly installed ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin, the candidate fielded by the administration, said he would try to convince President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to let Misuari live in a third country, adding that it "would not be helpful" to get Misuari back and try him for rebellion as this could stir up sympathy among his followers and cause conflict. Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. also said he was in favor of sending Misuari away since it would spare the government of some "additional burdens," including prosecuting the rebellion case filed against him.

A cowardly copout was what these government officials were suggesting. In effect, they were saying that the government should shirk its responsibility of giving justice to the handful of soldiers and scores of civilians who were killed during Misuari's short-lived rebellion. And all because of the fear that Misuari's arrest and detention would lead to an escalation of his followers' rebellion.

At this point, the fear of Misuari has as much rational basis as the fear of ghosts. After attacking several military outposts in Sulu, taking hostages in Zamboanga and engaging government troops in several skirmishes, what worse mischief is Misuari's ragtag army capable of doing? Without the billions at his disposal as ARMM governor and chair of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development, Misuari will soon be forgotten and his army will wither away.

Misuari was a mere shadow of his revolutionary self when then President Corazon Aquino rescued him from obscurity in 1986. What the government should strive to do is cut him down to size again, and there can be no better way to do it than to lock him up in prison. In the meantime, his former allies in the MNLF like Hussin, who stripped him of the chairmanship, should work hard to get themselves recognized by the Organization of the Islamic Conference, instead of trying to frighten the administration into setting Misuari free.

Without mobility, without money and without influence in the OIC, Misuari's call to arms will fall on deaf ears.

Stalemate

FOREIGN COMMENT

IN UNCERTAIN times, many people prefer the projection of power, tending to choose governmental controls over freedom, and military might over international cooperation. Has the world changed?

In the battle against the terrorism since Sept. 11, the United States has tried to build its own form of a framework for international cooperation. But the world cannot move forward unless there is a change in the behavior of the superpower, which regards international organizations and other nations simply as instruments for achieving its own aims. The stalemate in resolving issues for implementation of the Kyoto Protocol on limits of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming and the status of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty on nuclear weapons are obvious proofs of that.

Asahi Shimbun (Tokyo)

Don't go overboard lionizing Misuari

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THAT was a masterstroke, bringing Nur Misuari home quickly and by surprise, minus the fanfare that usually accompanies things like this. At the time Parouk Hussin was saying last Saturday—when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo inducted him as the new governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)—that Misuari should not be repatriated as he would mean more trouble here, Filipino police and civilian officials were already on their way to Malaysia to fetch Misuari. Was Hussin's statement, as well as the Jan. 15 schedule, part of the diversionary tactic? I don't think so. He wasn't told. The homecoming was that secret.

But it was not the idea of the Philippines; it was Malaysia's idea. "They (the Malaysians) felt that this was the right time" (when people were expecting him to be deported on Jan. 15), said PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza. Maybe the Malaysians want to get Misuari out of their hands as soon as possible.

Had it been left to the Filipino officials, maybe Misuari would be presented with all the top officials lined up behind him so their faces would be seen in the newspapers and television. It was best that Misuari and his aides were whisked to their detention centers without the Filipino paparazzi making it a circus.

But now the administration has to guard against the media-feeding frenzy when Misuari is eventually presented to the media. It will make him a celebrity again. Media may even make him a martyr and a hero.

We should learn from the lessons of the past. Misuari and his Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) were a spent force in 1986. Nobody was taking them seriously anymore. Until President Cory Aquino and her brother-in-law Butz Aquino resurrected him by giving him importance. The rest is history. Misuari and his MNLF are still giving us trouble because of that.

And I think media should restrain themselves and not go overboard in lionizing Misuari. Otherwise, we will soon have Muslims and Christian bleeding hearts picketing Misuari's detention centers, as well as Malacañang, the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice.

I read in the newspapers that Misuari will be allowed to receive visitors from dawn to dusk, six days a week, at Fort Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna. I don't think this is a good idea. He should have the same visiting hours as other detention prisoners. No special privileges, please.

* * *

The false newspaper story against National Labor Relations Commissioner Vicente Veloso (that he has been awarded 176 hectares of farmland in Barangay Tabangonhay, Alang-Alang, Leyte and that his "goons are harassing 189 farmers already awarded their certificates of land ownership by the Department of Agrarian Reform) has revealed the existence of a syndicate inside the DAR itself. The 189 farmers who were given "fake CLOAs" (according to Leyte Paro Tiburcio Morales) are victims of that syndicate.

The syndicate invites farmers outside of the barangay where the land "to be distributed" is located to join a "cooperative" so that they would be included among the farmers to be given CLOAs. The cost: P5,000 to P10,000 per farmer.

The syndicate pockets the money and then issues a certificate of land ownership to the group, listing all the names of the members. This is not allowed and makes the CLOA illegal and void. The name of the farmer must be in each CLOA with the boundaries and technical description of the land awarded him clearly described in the title. That is why Leyte Paro Morales told the 89 farmers complaining against Veloso that the CLOA they were holding is "fake."

The CLOA held by the alleged Tabangohay farmers, No. 00018261, was in the name of the Guinciaman DAR farmer Beneficiaries Organization in Guinciaman, San Miguel, Leyte. It has the alleged signatures of Agrarian Reform Secretary Benjamin Leong and Register of Deeds Pereorin G. Dingcong.

In the Memorandum of Encumbrances is listed the names of 144 alleged farmers, with the names of their respective spouses and addresses.

Veloso said there can be no problem between him and the farmers as he and his family do not own even a square meter of land in Tabangohay, Alang-Alang, Leyte, and that if anybody can locate the 176 hectares of land referred to, he can have it. There is therefore no reason for Veloso to harass any farmer. He has not received any CLOA from either the DAR or the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. As a commissioner of the NLRC in Manila, he cannot be a farmer-tiller in Tabangohay. He is therefore disqualified to apply for any CLOA reserved by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law for actual farmer-tillers.

The whole story is false, Veloso said, perhaps to sabotage his appointment to the Court of Appeals.

Perhaps the farmers were fed the wrong information by the syndicate when they could not occupy the land in their fake CLOA for which they paid hefty sums.

On the contrary, it was their family property in another municipality encroached upon by the Leyte Sab-a Basin Development Authority. But even there, there is no problem, Veloso said, because they have already donated the questioned piece of land to the tenants.

Spirits

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DISCOVERED it ages ago, but never really appreciated its infinite pleasures until much later. Which is the last five years or so. That is drinking wine.

I was lucky enough this past Christmas to have mustered a good amount of wine, courtesy of my decision to splurge a little and of the decision of friends and well-wishers to donate a bottle or two to my cause, which allowed me to wish people good cheer with renewed conviction. Truly, it made for a joyous season amid the gloom and doom. Nippy weather, which we haven't had in years, added to the blissfulness of things—nothing like drinking wine at room temperature when the room temperature isn't resolutely tropical. Although I also wondered (my social conscience will never be at peace) how the street children were doing in that weather. I've always thought, having seen ragged people huddling on sidewalks in winter in the cold countries, how lucky we were to have a balmy climate. But that is another story, or column.

What clinched the season for me was the news about doctors ascertaining with finality that red wine in particular was good for the heart. I already knew that many years ago, from reading about the so-called French paradox, which said that the French ate more fats than Americans but died less from heart attacks than them. The reason for it being that the French drank more wine than Americans. But it was good to know science had found a precise explanation for it. Red wine in particular was found to contain a property that prevented an element in the human body from building up and clogging the coronary arteries.

Metro Manila and beating deadlines—in that order of oppression—being two of the things that are not good for the heart, I was glad to know that I could count on a formidable ally against them. Of course I would imagine that, medicinal properties aside, beer should also do the same trick. Or other firewater, which drives demons away more surely than firecrackers. Though too much of it has been known to initiate friction instead of lubricate conversation: It is not just in *vino* that there is *veritas*, or truth, and truth does not always set people free, sometimes it sets them quarrelling. Things that are bottled up inside are not always best let out of the bottle at once, particularly after having opened a great many bottles. But in reasonable quantities, those spirits do much to relieve stress. Of course there's the headache next day, but that's another story, or column.

I haven't given up beer entirely, which has the monumental virtue of being infinitely cheaper than wine, and lasts longer in raucous company. And when freshly brewed has a heavenly taste as well. But for those of us who have to make do with bottled beer, we can just make sure it is a relatively new one. You know that because the label in the bottle hasn't peeled off yet. There is a difference in taste between old stock and new one.

I know I really shouldn't be talking about any of this because I have been cursed by the gods to pay for whatever pleasure I get in life. The richer the pleasure, the dearer the payment. Which is what the spirits have been for me. I suffer from gout, which I got from my father, and which I got early in life. I was 31 when I first felt its sting—that, I assure, is completely literal—and couldn't believe it. But that is still another story. Well, the archenemy of gout is drinking. Wine may be good for the heart, but it is not good for the feet, or knees, or wherever urate crystals like to lodge, which is pretty much everywhere in the body. I remember a doctor assuring me a long time ago that my affliction was really easy to cure. All I had to do was not drink, sleep early and exercise. I was instantly cured of doctors.

I figure some pleasures are worth their price in suffering. Wine is chief of them. I swear that precious liquid did not come from this earth, it came from heaven. It was introduced by some god who took corporeal form that resembled Bacchus, or Dionysus. There is only one other spirit I am fully convinced is divinely inspired, and that is cognac. Which, like wine, comes from grapes, but which, unlike wine, comes with a heavenly price tag. It is well beyond me, but on the occasions that friends and acquaintances have served it, I have forgotten I am not supposed to add to my current levels of uric acid. Which is not all that I forget, as I find out next day.

With wine itself, I've confined myself only to the moderately priced ones, and only occasionally. Wine may not burn a hole in the intestines like other drinks, but it burns a hole in the pockets. I am of course partial to red. You can get a good bargain with the Chilean ones. They're not very expensive, but some of them are very good. I like Merlot, but like the Cabernet varieties even better. Someone told me recently the Australian Chiraz is not the best, but I'm fine with it, it is at least within my means.

But there's the beauty of it, there's a vast terrain to explore. You chance on a particularly good bottle, and it's absolute heaven. The fragrance, the body, the nuances in textures, the soul, the aftertaste the utter romance of it—oh, yes, those things are real—they are worth the exquisite pain of gout. Particularly when aided with song, live or from a stereo: It isn't always easy to listen to arias live, and arias, like cheese, blend very well with wine. Especially when aided by a fine conversation, or, well, even a riotous one. Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec himself liked bawdiness to go with his wine.

I know things like this should end with an admonition for people to drink moderately. But if you like wine, you probably would have heard that the Greeks, who loved the stuff—Odysseus got to escape from the cave by plying the Cyclop with wine till he fell to a stupor—held one virtue in very high store.

That was the virtue of moderation.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

More of the same

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

MANILA'S broadsheets heralded on their front page the beginning of 2002 with the same menu of news highlighted by the thickening plot of conspiracies, the rebellion of renegade Moro National Liberation Front chief Nur Misuari and the stalemate in the Senate over its leadership. If one had been away from the local scene for more than a month bridging the Christmas and New Year holidays, it would seem that one has not missed anything and in this spot of the globe, time has stood still.

And yet, over the past month, events had been changing the shape of history in other lands. By the end of 2001, the military campaign led by the United States and its allies in Afghanistan had toppled the Taliban regime, which protected Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida terrorist network, earlier than the calculations of Washington, and has sent Bin Laden on the run. As the primary objective of the US-led coalition's war on terrorists, Bin Laden is far from being captured or killed, but Afghanistan has a new opportunity to be ruled by its squabbling factions. The altered political development in Afghanistan was reported in the inside pages of the Manila press, as if the war on terrorists has come to an end. It may be that Afghanistan is so remote from us and the upheaval there as well as the changed nature of warfare after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, has little effect on our lives that we tend to put them behind us after the initial shock of the attacks on the United States.

The new year may not have given the Filipinos a fresh outlook for 2002, given that their concerns are mired in coup rumors and another people power, both of which dominated the news from Jan. 20, 2001, when they installed a new administration through the rule of multitudes rampaging in the streets in protest against outrageous corruption and the ineptitude of the past administration.

A world-shaking event was ushered in on Jan. 1, when the euro became the active single currency of 12 European Monetary Union countries comprising Germany, France, Greece, Finland, Portugal, Spain, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands, Ireland, Austria and Italy. The advent of the euro as legal tender of 300 million Europeans was an economic event of historic magnitude, but because it was an economic event and not a cataclysmic event like the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, it hardly rated a play above the fold of the front-page news. The coup rumors were more important to us than the euro conversion.

The adoption of the euro moves the European Monetary Union countries further toward the goal of integrating their economy and boosting its size equal to the US economy, the world's biggest economy. It offers an alternative to the US dollar as the dominant currency in the world, reducing the dependence of smaller economies, like the Philippines, on the dollar. The most immediate impact of the euro is to reduce the transaction costs of Filipino companies with European businesses, but the larger impact is that with the eurozone countries being the second biggest trading partners of the Philippines, Filipino businessmen are offered the opportunities opened by the integrated European market, diverting transactions away from the United States.

A week into the euro conversion, one euro fetches 90 US cents, but European Central Bank authorities hope to achieve parity with the dollar in the coming days.

The switch is another step toward the political integration of Western Europe—a process that began after the end of World War II when President Charles de Gaulle of France and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of Germany sealed the reconciliation of their countries which were bled by three major wars for more than two centuries—the Franco-Prussian War, and the First and Second World Wars. Their pact of peace started with an agreement on cooperation on coal and steel, expanding to larger economic cooperation, the lifting of customs barriers and travel restrictions, and incorporating more countries in Western Europe into economic and political arrangements. The cooperation has not resulted in the disappearance of the cultural and national identities of members of the European community. Nor did they shed their national sovereignties in the aftermath of the election of a European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, and the establishment of the bureaucracy of the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium.

The vision of General De Gaulle and Adenauer, who represented the two most powerful nations on the continent, was Europe will never be at war again, and the fact that Western Europe is now composed of democracies helped avert another great war on the continent. As political scientists have said, democracies don't make war with one another, and that has proved to be true.

Wim Duisenberg, president of the European Bank, has described the euro as a "symbol for the unification (of Europe), and the single will of 12 countries to enter the future." He said, "Central Bankers are not supposed to have emotions or dreams. Forgive me if I make an exception today for this is a moment in which the flow of history is present."

The switch means that for 300 million Europeans, there's life after Bin Laden or the Sept. 11 catastrophe.

They are unfazed by the terrorist attacks which did not halt the process toward economic cooperation that started from the ruins of World War II. With the euro, the French franc, the German mark, the Italian Lira, the Spanish peseta, and the Greek drachma, among the major currencies of the European Monetary Union, bowed out of existence, erasing the formal boundaries of Europe's former multiple currency system.

The drachma vanished, ending Europe's oldest currency that originated 2,000 years ago. It was the standard coin of antiquity. Alexander the Great took the coin as far as Afghanistan, travelling in tandem with the wave of Greek conquest, culture and civilization.

In this country, the tides of history go unnoticed. They are hidden by the current concerns over the unfinished business of coups and other forms of instability.

Birthing in the past and present

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LAST Saturday's guest at "XYZone," the radio show I host every Saturday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. over dzAR, Angel Radyo 1026, was Dr. Susana Balingit, a reproductive health consultant with the Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Program—Partnership Component, of the Department of Health.

An anesthesiologist by training but a health resource management expert by experience, Dr. Balingit smilingly introduces herself as "the doctor who does macrobiotics." In fact, while Lily, our production coordinator, was distributing snacks, Dr. Balingit asked her not to bother "because we can only eat certain foods."

But it wasn't to talk about diets that we invited Dr. Balingit. Rather, it was to discuss the findings of an ongoing research on traditional methods of birthing among indigenous women that Dr. Balingit and her team are conducting among women in Bontoc. The hour-long discussion turned out to cover more ground than I had anticipated, with so many insights not only on reproductive health, but also on the powerful linkages between and among health and the environment, history, culture and tradition, family and community relations, and even diet.

It was also another object lesson on how people ignore the past, and forsake tradition, at the risk of bartering away the future.

Why conduct research among Bontoc women? Dr. Balingit says they went to Bontoc upon the invitation of the young, idealistic health officer in the area who was concerned about the rising maternal mortality rates. Was it possible to investigate the women's traditional birth practices to discover ways to make birthing safer for today's generation of mothers?

* * *

AS Dr. Balingit and her team discovered, it wasn't as simple as discovering certain techniques or procedures that made delivery safer in the past than today. Instead, in focused group discussions of women of different ages, they discovered that maternal mortality had risen almost in direct proportion to the decline in overall health of women through the years.

"Women who were 50 and older reported experiencing less health problems and 'complications' of pregnancy and childbirth than women who were 20 or more years younger," Dr. Balingit said.

The women themselves said so much had changed in their traditional lifestyles, especially their diet and physical activity. The women were especially concerned with the degradation of the environment. Where before the Chico River provided an abundant and constantly renewable source of fish and shellfish, Dr. Balingit noted, the communities now are finding the river less and less reliable as a food source. A particular breed of snails which was once an integral part of the Bontoc diet, she added, has also all but disappeared due to environmental shifts.

Education also played a part in altering their traditional diets, the women said. Textbooks teaching the makings of a "balanced diet," for instance, listed and illustrated vegetables that were staples of lowlanders' diets but ignored those growing plentifully in the area. The abandonment of their own familiar vegetables was accelerated all the more when market demands forced the farmers to change the kinds of vegetables they cultivated, the better to sell to lowland buyers.

* * *

THE SHIFTS in their diets also involved eating more meat, which used to enter their diets only as part of special occasions or rituals. And it was not just the amount of meat that changed, but also the kind of meat and the sources.

To this day, says Dr. Balingit, Bontoc families shy away from using the "white" or hybrid pig and cultivated poultry for ritual sacrifices because, they claim, the flesh of the commercially bred pigs and chickens is inferior to that of the native breeds, fed on slops or free-range.

"Their spirit is different," one old woman told Dr. Balingit. "Even if you let a hybrid chicken out of its cage, it will not wander. It has lost its spirit."

Bontoc women also said they noticed that when they subject pork from a hybrid pig to the traditional way of curing by smoking and salting, the meat spoiled after just a month or so. In contrast, cured meat from native breeds could last as long as five years! "This also tells me that they mustn't have been eating much meat, if a cured pig could last as long as five years," notes Dr. Balingit.

* * *

BIRTHING among Bontoc families, says Dr. Balingit, was considered a very sacred matter, with the woman usually attended by women relatives with the husband assisting.

While modern medicine deems certain conditions, such as a diminutive stature or a breech presentation "complications" of birth, Dr. Balingit says the indigenous women seem to have been adequately prepared to cope even with unexpected developments during delivery. Besides, their robust good health, from a healthy diet and rigorous activity (with women doing their farming and household chores even in the late stages of pregnancy) ensured their ability to withstand the rigors of childbirth.

Perhaps even more important was the fact that traditional Bontoc society was very much community-centered, with marriages and births considered communal compacts and social events. Adolescence for girls was spent in the "ulog," a kind of dormitory for young women where traditional lore and knowledge was passed on from the older generation to the young. Even the choice of a prospective spouse was a matter of communal decision among the young women, with marriage negotiated between the young man's and the young woman's families.

"Safe motherhood," then, is not just a question of having trained birth attendants at hand, or bringing mothers to the hospital in time to deal with complications. Perhaps its time to return to the systems that supported and ensured the health and survival of mothers, such as an environment that can sustain and promote good health, a return to simpler diets and more active lifestyles, and most especially, a community of caring families and neighbors. Indeed, "it takes a village" not just to raise a child, but to help mothers survive as well.

Historical data in old dictionaries

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

DOREEN Fernandez gave me two pre-war books for Christmas: the "Vocabulario-Pampango-Tagalog-Ingles" and the "Vocabulario Ilocano-Hispano-Ingles." I used to see bundles of these in a musty bodega off the Welcome Rotunda and ignored them. I was delighted that Doreen had the foresight to acquire much of these because that bookstore—housing publications of the pre-war Libreria de J. Martinez—is now no more. Twenty years ago, when I frequented the place, there were simply too many books to choose from and I had a very limited budget. At the time, I thought I would have no use for old dictionaries and vocabularies, but then it was also Doreen who opened my eyes to the historical data hidden in old dictionaries. In a pioneering article on food in the 16th-century Philippines, she recreated the food world of Tagalog speakers of the 16th and 17th centuries by going through each and every reference to food in early friar dictionaries. Having shown younger scholars the way, she left us to work on other Philippine languages or redo her own work on Tagalog and come up with new insights.

These books were presented during a memorable *cochinillo* dinner and being half-Kapampangan I opened the "Vocabulario-Pampango-Tagalog-Ingles" first. I was surprised to learn that my favorite Tagalog word "*Hoy!*" translated into Kapampangan became "*Oy!*" (without the "h") and these, when rendered into English, were transformed into, "Hallow!" (hello!). If the translation is correct then we must be pronouncing it wrongly because "*Hoy!*" doesn't sound like a pleasant greeting to me. "*Sayang!*" (What a pity!) and "*Makapagmulala*" in Kapampangan become "*Katakataka*" in Tagalog and "it is admirable" in English. The *vocabulario* was obviously more useful than a dictionary; it was a practical guide to learn English and the texts were given in Kapampangan, Tagalog, English, and the English was written to be pronounced:

Good morning (Gud morning). Good evening (Gud ivning). Where are you going (Juer ar yu going)? I am going to Binondo (Ay am going tu Binondo). Where did you come from (Juer did you cam from)? I came from Luneta (Ay keim from Luneta). Take a seat (Taik ei sit). Thanks (Zenks). Make yourself feel at home (Meik yourself fil at jom). All this made me wonder about the way texting mangles both English and Tagalog and how we now learn to read and understand texts in a new way.

While I don't speak Ilocano and only know food-related words like *bagnet*, *pakbet* and *papaitan*, I also found the texts amusing because they supplied whole dialogues for various people and occasions. The dialogue for children—in English translation—reads as follows:

"What is your name? Rufino at your service. Where are you going? I am going home. Where do you come from? From the church. Where will you pass through? Through the streets. Where were you born my friend? From Batac, if I can serve anything for you. Do you like that we be friends? Yes, why not? Then, shall we go home? What for? To eat together as a token of our friendship. And after, what shall we do? We shall sleep."

Frankly, as I was reading this innocent pre-war text I could not help imagine the exchange as one between a pedophile and his intended victim. Times have indeed changed and the way in which I understand the text is different from what the original compiler of the *vocabulario* intended. At least I read on till the end to find out that after they had slept, Rufino asks:

"And who will awaken us? Our servant. Where is he? He is washing plates in the kitchen. Then, let us go. But at what time will you allow me to go away? At five o'clock in the afternoon. After the luncheon? Exactly. And shall we not take a walk? We shall go when you please. Where shall we go to? To the house of my grandmother..."

I also know from the close reading of the text that the book, with no publication date, was printed in the American period. (It was still on sale in the 1940s because it has a rubber stamp on the cover stating that in July 1943, the book passed through the Censors of the Japanese Military.) After the nap, Rufino is brought to the house of his new friend's grandmother who asks:

"My children before taking supper, tell me since when the years were counted? Grandma, according to what our teacher taught us, the years were counted since the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, head of our Holy Mother Church, though invisible. And who is the visible head of the Holy Church? The Holy Pope who is in Rome and he is his representative here on earth. And what is his name? Pio X. And who is reigning at present in Spain? His majesty Alfonso XIII. And what is the name of the Archbishop? Monseñor Jeremias J. Harty."

Surely this is not a conversation children will find themselves in before being fed at a stranger's home but then, the above text dates the book and the time when it was currently in use. It not only gives us a tri-lingual compilation of common phrases and words, but also opens us to the world in which people lived in a different age. Dictionaries and phrase books are often neglected historical sources waiting to be rediscovered.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

To UP High Class of '56

HIGH BLOOD

Sergio Romeo F. Bautista

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

LAST Dec. 8, 2001 we held our 45th class reunion. Of all the Class '50s, our class always had the most alumni in attendance. Class '55 and Class '57 often joined us after lunch to reminisce about the good old days in our air-conditioned room, the only one in the UP Integrated School.

We see our classmates once a year. Classmates who surprisingly look young and those who look sadly old for their age. Most of us though are just what we should look like. Sixty-two years old and counting, Class '56 produced a dean of the UP College of Medicine, our valedictorian, Marita Tolentino-Reyes. Carolina Malay-Ocampo is now with the UP academe while Satur Ocampo and Etta Rosales are now party-list representatives.

The banter revolved around how fortunate some of our classmates were to survive a heart attack by having a quadruple bypass. The joke was that if you see a heart surgeon for a check-up and he finds out that you are from the enclaves of the rich—the Corinthian Gardens, Green Meadows, Greenhills—chances are that you will be recommended for a quadruple heart bypass (we have two classmates who went through the same procedure). But if you are from Pag-Asa, Project 2 or 3 and any of the less affluent subdivisions, chances are you will be prescribed a pill to take, forced to follow a strict diet and a not too strenuous workout program. And the doctor will require you to visit him again hoping that on your next meeting you will be rich enough to afford a heart bypass. Most of us experienced this.

The usual *bidahan* about our families and how many grandchildren we all have was always part of our conversation and took much of our time. Some of us who were dubbed as womanizers, a "playboy" then, had their own stories to tell. Like how young their children were by a young second wife or a girlfriend and how if felt to be mistaken for the grandpa instead of the papa! It's truly embarrassing for someone who, while attending a Parents-Teachers Association meeting, the principal thanks him for accompanying his grandchild and his daughter, who actually is the mother of his child! And of course, there's always the story about a former classmate who was abandoned by a pretty young thing because she wanted a younger paramour. Most of us did not get to marry our classmates. They remained our "crushes." Some did and lived happily ever after. One married a consul who got lucky and now serves the country as an ambassador. Another also married a foreigner and is now a very prominent opera singer, Thelma Mandac. There are still many of my classmates who should be mentioned but at 62, I'm afraid my memory isn't as sharp as before.

During these reunions you just have to have a business forum where one gets to know who is doing what. Our classmate based in Australia, George Marcelo of the Marcelo Group of Companies, is putting up a 10,000-income producing low-cost housing project in Bacoor in cooperation with the National Housing Authority and the City of Bacoor. When converted into an export processing zone it will produce salt, fresh water and electricity by Solar Energy. It will also assemble cellular phones and culture seafood. Rey Asuncion of the RGV Real Estate Center is developing a housing project in Tagaytay. And the dynamic duo of Franklin Libatique and Melch Melchor are busy putting up houses for some classmates. Most have retired except for a handful who want to but still can't since they have not saved enough to take the easy life. They will retire at age 65. The lucky few are "LOI"...living on inheritance!

We have organized Class '56 alumni groups in the US Bay Area, Mid-West and the East Coast. During our Jubilee Year, these groups hosted a week of reunions with Philippine-based classmates.

The talk then shifts to looking forward to 2006, our 50th diamond year. Our class elected Joe Pascual as our president for life. Joe is the son of a former governor of Rizal. He organizes committees to plan for any event we want done. Our class has a savings of $2,000 and about P100,000 all because of the financial management skills of Joe and some classmates. He is our mother hen, so to speak. He personally calls us up to remind us of our yearly reunion and is updated as to who is still up and about. He takes care of preparing our lunch and the beer. Our savings subsidize what we eat and drink. Our class sends wreaths to classmates who went ahead to the Great Divide. We also give financial support to some of our former teachers. President Joe will surely be preparing for the diamond year.

Will we be there? Absolutely, we will be there, because all of us who attended the last reunion still have the magic of Class '56.

Sergio Romeo F. Bautista, 63, is in aircraft sales, leasing and services.

Remembering my daughter Joy

Teresita N. Marbella

DR. Johanna Pilar "Joy" Marbella y Nocon was my youngest and only daughter. Because of this she was the favorite of the family. She finished her elementary and high school at the St. Scholastica's College of Manila. She graduated from the Centro Escolar Universtiy, College of Dentistry. She also took up pediatric dentistry at the Philippine Children's Medical Center.

She had her own clinic that she acquired while she was still studying. She was so kind-hearted that she sometimes gave free services to her neighbors and extended financial assistance to them. She had lots of dreams and was getting married.

But all of this vanished by just one act of violence. She was attacked in her clinic at about 4 in the afternoon of Dec. 1, 1998. She sustained more than 10 stab wounds on her body and face. She died the following day at the MCU Hospital at the age of 29.

Because of the circumstances surrounding her death, our family believes that robbery wasn't the motive. Her case is still under investigation by both the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police.

How can a killer or killers do such a thing when she was only 5 feet tall? Are they not bothered by their conscience? *Sabi nila masakit daw mawalan ng anak.* That is true because until now, after almost three years, I suffer in silence. Every time I am alone, every time I wake up at night, I remember her. She was with us for 29 years!

I am now 70 years old, in my twilight years. My only wish is that the culprit or culprits are caught and brought to justice, and that her murder will not be just another statistic.

THEY SAID

Who cares?

"Frankly Eddie, we don't give a damn."

—Pamalakaya spokesperson Gerry Albert Corpuz on rumors that former President Fidel V. Ramos would seek reelection

Amicable settlement

"*Pinapalaki niya ang sunog.* If I were him, I would just advice my client to settle the issue amicably since it would not go anywhere."

—Lawyer Salvador Panelo, Korina Sanchez's counsel, criticizing her househelp Bernardita Inocencio's lawyer, GMA 7 broadcaster Mel "Batas" Mauricio

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Belying BIR 'praise' releases

ELLEN Cain's "Economics of scoring 'pogi' points" (PDI, 12/28/01) exposes how she and her colleagues at the Foundation for Economic Freedom Inc. (FEF) have begun to believe their own propaganda about the supposed successes of the Bureau of Internal Revenue in curbing corruption through "strict monitoring and auditing measures."

Or did she quote these words from FEF president, UP faculty member, DBP board member and part-time columnist and PR man Alex Magno? It is an open secret in the BIR that Magno is Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez's PR consultant, the latter even appointing Magno's brother Rommel as public affairs officer. It is also public knowledge that Bañez used to work with the Ayala Corp., one of the corporate sponsors of the FEF.

Cain's letter begins by attacking those who dare to oppose the International Monetary Fund's recommendations of sound fiscal management, claiming that these critical groups are a "detriment to the less articulate and marginalized sector." This is then followed by loud praises for a paper authored by Cayetano Paderanga, former director of the National Economic Development Authority and member of the monetary board, on recent fiscal developments in the Philippines. This portion is a crude attempt to butter up to Paderanga who we hear is also a former member of the FEF and is not friendly to Magno.

However, the cat was let out of the bag by the letter's conclusion and what appears to be its principal objective—to paint a rosy picture of the BIR. Is Cain and Magno launching another PR campaign for the BIR in 2002, perhaps in time for an accounting of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's promises in her State of the Nation Address? And is it standard practice for the FEF to permit itself to be used as an instrument in furthering the personal motives of its members?

For how can the FEF honestly say that the BIR exceeded its targets for 2001 when the central government itself drastically reduced those targets by about P20 billion, precisely because of the BIR's poor performance? The FEF ingeniously uses Paderanga's study to cover up its own shoddy scholarship. This is pure and simple propaganda emanating from a supposed "think tank."

Paderanga's study is more truthful and incisive—observing that the BIR under Liwayway Vinzons-Chato or the period from 1994-1997 was indeed exceptional because of the double-digit percentage increases in revenue generation. But this trend was radically reversed, first under former President Estrada and now under President Macapagal. A simple monitoring of the INQUIRER's business section, and the government's own despair over revenue generation will reveal that this FEF "praise release" regarding the robustness of BIR revenue collections is all hogwash.

Stop fooling the public and stop making a fool of the President too.

Early this year Magno was quite successful in inserting Bañez for special citation in the President's Sona. Despite the absence of a credible track record, Bañez eclipsed other more worthy, hardworking and committed government officials such as Education Secretary Raul Roco, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman and Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas. Nowhere in her speech did Ms Macapagal mention their names. Perhaps she should change her speechwriter.

For if this isn't a clear case of scoring *pogi* points for the BIR, I don't know what is.—**ANTONIO CALSADO, 2184 Road 4, Fabie Estate, San Andres Bukid, Manila**

Untangling the medium from the message

THIS is a reply to the letter of Manuel F. Almario on Jan. 3, 2002 which was a response to my letter last Dec. 28, 2001.

Contrary to Almario's interpretation of my letter, I was merely urging the nation's leaders to carefully consider sound economic policies rather than "swallow [the] failed IMF economic prescriptions." I merely called on thorough sifting of facts and arguments, which are sometimes neglected due to dictates of scoring "*pogi*-points" in the political arena.

I am with Almario in aspiring for a brighter prospect for our nation. But some of us are more inclined to bicker with roundabout arguments.

Let us untangle the medium from the message. Let us not confuse ourselves by muddling the issue. Most importantly, let us not narrow the arguments by forgetting that more than anything else, good governance and the will to do what is right in the face of unpopular support is one of the key ingredients to a successful government. This was the point of my letter.

Sir, there are gallant men and women in our midst who do not "merely say amen to IMF prescriptions." Many of them put their heads on the line in pushing for much needed reforms to brighten the prospects of our country. These people we most oftentimes fail to acknowledge.

For instance, there are various administrative reforms which have been on the roll in our government agencies such as the Department of Budget and Management and the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The DBM has been pushing for procurement reforms and the BIR for tax administration reforms. These measures will save billions of taxpayers' money lost to leakages in the bureaucracy.

Already, the government boasts of about P500-million excess tax collections in the first 11 months of 2001 due to improvements in auditing standards by the BIR and financial prudence of the Department of Finance. But instead of a pat on the back, these people have been accused with the rotten things that they are trying to stamp out of their agencies and/or tagged as underdogs of American imperialism.

While many of us lament the doom and gloom in the Philippine economy, there are gallant men and women, who, with sound basis for the economic policies that they are pushing, toil hard to keep us afloat in these difficulties times.

Let us rally behind them.—**ELLEN CAIN, program officer for public governance, Foundation for Economic Freedom Inc., Ground Floor, Rm. 105-106, Cristina 1 Bldg., 71 Kalayaan Ave., Quezon City**

LETTERS

Robotic prayer machine?

THE OPINION section on Jan. 6 broke out in a religious rash.

First, Isagani Cruz made some silly predictions about what the United States would or would not do if the Philippines got embroiled in a war with China, and ultimately recommended prayer as the solution to the Philippines' problems.

Then Nandy Pacheco, in a typical Filipino agony column, wound up with the same solution as Cruz, more prayer.

I would think any rational person would have long ago come to the conclusion that the Philippines has been abandoned by God and that it was time for Filipinos to take matters into their own hands.

A dependence on supernatural creatures will get you nowhere. What is necessary is a revamp of the Filipino character. That would be an arduous and difficult task but there is no other solution.

A place to start would be at birth. As Sylvia Mayuga put it in one of her commentary columns, she was baptized without her consent. That, and subsequent religious pressures, are a form of entrapment. Willy-nilly the Filipino becomes a robotic prayer machine.—**ROBERT HANAN, bobhanan@iprimus.com.au**

Admit guilt and ask forgiveness

I PROBABLY write on behalf of many overseas Filipino when I say that it is time for ousted President Estrada to admit his guilt. His secret guilt is no secret any more. For people who have eyes to see and ears to hear know that he is guilty.

After admitting his guilt, Erap should ask for forgiveness *"sapagkat ako'y tao lamang."*

It is completely wrong for the Supreme Court to ban the television coverage of Erap's trial. Overseas Filipinos cannot watch this important trial of the century in their homes.—**OSCAR R. LANDICHO orlandicho@hotmail.com.**

Naia, other airports being upgraded

IN REPLY to the letter written by M.F. Almario in your Christmas Day issue titled "Issue is public interest," I wish to inform the writer that Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez is squarely addressing his concern about alleged neglect at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Alvarez is modernizing transportation services, which includes infrastructures related to the operations of the international airport. Working in tandem with the Department of Tourism and the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Transportation and Communications is upgrading the Naia and other major alternate international airports in the country. The modernization of the Davao Alternate International Airport, like those in Cotabato and Butuan, is in full swing. Most important, the Naia Terminal 3 will be operational soon.

To support the airport projects, land and sea transport services such as the Light Rail Transit and the Metro Rail Transit extension projects are being upgraded. The railway systems in Mindanao, Panay and the Philippine National Railways are also being rehabilitated to support the country's overall economic development program.

Alvarez is not blaming anybody for whatever "troubles" he might have. In fact, he welcomes the cases filed in court against him as a chance to prove his innocence and put a stop to all accusations against him.—**RAMON CUYCO, spokesperson, Department of Transportation and Communications**

Ending blue ribbon hearings on telecom scam

IN CONNECTION with the letter of Dante Q. Isuc (PDI, 1/1/02) the chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, Sen. Joker P. Arroyo has authorized the following comments:

1. Senator Arroyo allowed in an impromptu interview that Pacifico Marcelo, the key resource person on the alleged bribery in the telecom inquiry had cleared in his sworn statement and in his testimony First Gentleman Mike Arroyo of any wrongdoing. Since that is the subject matter of the investigation, Senator Arroyo observed that hearings could be terminated after one concluding session to hear the testimony of those who have not yet testified.

2. The committee cannot consider the alleged P80-million bribe offer of Sen. Edgardo Angara to Marcelo because that is not within the scope of the investigation; neither can the alleged attempt of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to control 51 percent of the two telecom companies of Marcelo be entertained because it is likewise not covered by Resolution No. 97 which triggered the investigation.

3. The blue ribbon committee is not a court, it is a legislative committee. The format of a legislative inquiry is not the same as that of a judicial proceeding. But common to both is that when the purpose of the investigation has been achieved, the inquiry has to be concluded. It cannot go on endlessly to catch and resolve every issue that arises in the course of the proceedings that is outside the mandate devolved by the Senate to the committee.—**EMILIA A. PUEYO, secretary, Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, Rm. 501, 5th Floor, GSIS Bldg., Roxas Boulevard, 1307 Pasay City**

Military men need re-education

I WOULD like to comment on the letter written by Chrysantine Golla of Makati City regarding Sen. John Osmeña in the Jan. 4 issue of the INQUIRER. While I don't like Osmeña myself, the idea of giving more money to the supposedly ill-equipped military is pathetic. The military doesn't need more weapons right now. What the military needs is re-education as to its role in our society.

With the billions of pesos that we spend on the armed forces every year, they cannot even capture the members of the Abu Sayyaf, a bandit group numbering less than a hundred. Instead, we hear about abuses committed by the military and the police. In fact, people are afraid of them.

The military is supposed to be the protector of the people. Nothing could be further from the truth. Soldiers are the primary abusers of the ordinary people. The only people they protect are the rich and famous. If you ask people who they are most afraid of, I am willing to bet that the military will be on top of their list. They are more afraid of the military than the *aswang* or *multo*!—**BILL SABALBURO, cacio123 @yahoo.com**

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Zinni sees hope for Mideast peace but Palestinians feel short-changed

NEWS ANALYSIS

James Hider

JERUSALEM—US special envoy Anthony Zinni ended his second mission to the Middle East on a more positive note than his first, noting "real opportunities for progress," although the Palestinians were left disappointed Monday that he set no timetable for implementing truce plans.

Zinni, due to return on Jan. 18, ended his four-day visit with a joint security meeting aimed at strengthening a fragile ceasefire.

He had earlier said the talks he held with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and various political and security officials were "encouraging."

Zinni was first dispatched to the region on Nov. 26 by US Secretary of State Colin Powell, tasked with examining ways of bringing both sides back to a lasting ceasefire that would end 15 months of violence that have left more than 1,100 people dead.

But that initial mission was swept away amid a rip-tide of violence.

Days before he arrived, Israel assassinated a leading militant of the hardline Islamic movement Hamas. Armed Islamic groups responded with a wave of devastating suicide bombings, triggering a massive Israeli response.

As the violence soared and both sides traded accusations, Zinni was recalled to Washington for consultations.

He returned to Jerusalem last Thursday for further talks, but Israel's capture the same day of a ship laden with weapons allegedly bound for the Palestinian territories overshadowed his second round of peace talks, and his departure was barely noticed early Monday.

"After four days of intensive discussions with Israelis and Palestinians, it is clear that, while serious challenges remain, there are real opportunities for progress," the US Embassy said in a statement issued after high-level trilateral security talks late Sunday.

Palestinian political sources who asked not to be named gave his mission a lukewarm assessment, saying Zinni had failed to set a timetable for the implementation of internationally backed peace plans or to propose concrete measures to lift Israeli restrictions.

The two demands had been key goals set out by the Palestinians ahead of return.

Instead they said they had heard calls not only to arrest extremists but do more to dismantle militant networks to prevent radical groups carrying out future attacks on Israel should the current calm falter.

The Israeli press had speculated that Zinni could ask Sharon to soften his insistence on seven days of absolute calm before moving ahead with the international-backed Tenet understanding and Mitchell plans, designed to restore calm and build confidence.

But US pressure appeared, as before, to be mainly focused on Arafat bringing extremists to heel.

The former Marine Corps general told reporters after meeting Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Sunday that any end to the drawn-out crisis "has to start with countering terrorism and it has to start with security cooperation."

Israel has long argued that the sequencing of any bid to restore peace starts with Arafat jailing radicals.

Israel has acknowledged progress on the security front since Arafat, under massive pressure from Israeli raids and the world community, called for an end to armed operations against the Jewish state on Dec. 16, a day after Zinni left the region.

But Sharon has said Arafat has failed to make a "strategic decision" to renounce violence and break up the anti-Israeli groups.

Col. Jibril Rajoub, West Bank preventative security chief, told the Al Ayyam daily the whole Zinni mission had been overshadowed by Israel's seizure of the Karine A, intercepted in the Red Sea last Thursday with 50 tons of weapons aboard.

However, US officials were quoted in the Israeli press as saying that Zinni's mission would continue, "ship or no ship."

But the furor surrounding the serious allegations of arms smuggling at a time when hopes were on the rise for peace talks has put extra pressure on the Palestinians to continue their crackdown on extremists.

AFP

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Pakistan renounces terror but India remains unmoved

ISLAMABAD/NEW DELHI—Pakistan's president, Pervez Musharraf, under pressure from Britain and the United States, has made his strongest statement yet against terrorism and hinted at further action on Islamic militants.

But with India demanding the handover of 20 militants after a Dec. 13 attack on its parliament, there was little sign of an early end to a tense military standoff between the neighbors and nuclear rivals.

Musharraf, speaking after talks with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, said final decisions still had to be taken in connection with the crackdown on militants based in Pakistan and all would be revealed when he addressed the nation in a few days.

"Pakistan rejects terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and has fully cooperated with the international coalition against terrorism in that spirit," Musharraf told a joint news conference with Blair on Monday.

It was the first time that he has explicitly rejected all forms of terrorism and Blair welcomed his words as a step toward cooling tempers on the border, where both sides have massed troops and armor in their largest military buildup in 15 years.

But Musharraf also pointed a finger of blame at India over the current standoff. "I have informed the prime minister of the dangerous military buildup on our border and the belligerent statements emanating from India," he said.

President George W. Bush said on Monday that the situation between the neighbors, who staged tit-for-tat nuclear tests in 1998, remained serious.

He called for a clear pledge from Musharraf to crack down further on the militants India says are driving a rebellion in Jammu and Kashmir, its only Muslim-majority state.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947 and have edged closer to a fourth since the attack on the Indian parliament in which 14 people died. There have been almost daily exchanges of border fire since the attack.

Musharraf has come under intense diplomatic pressure to move further against Pakistan-based militant groups India blames for the parliament attack and for attacks in Kashmir.

Pakistan has arrested scores of Islamic militants, including leading members of the two groups India links to the parliament attack, but India says it must do more. *Reuters*

MUSHARRAF

Mideast row over weapons ship deepens

JERUSALEM—The row over a ship laden with arms allegedly bound for Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority deepened Monday as Israeli television broadcast an interview with the vessel's Palestinian captain, who pointed the finger at associates of the Palestinian leader.

The furor over the capture of the Karine A last Thursday, and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's branding of Arafat a "bitter enemy," overshadowed the departure of US special envoy Anthony Zinni, who said he saw signs of progress in the region.

Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer said the discovery of more than 50 tons of military hardware stashed in waterproof containers for a covert landing called for a change of Israel's stance against Arafat's administration.

The Palestinians have denied any knowledge of the affair, but Arafat later announced an internal inquiry and pledged to punish Palestinians implicated in the shipment that Sharon said was destined to be used to launch a new wave of attacks on Israel.

The incident has set tensions simmering again after three weeks of calm which followed Arafat's public call for an end to anti-Israel attacks, after Israel launched withering retaliation strikes for Palestinian suicide bombings and the world community threatened to shun him.

But a damning testimony against Arafat emerged Monday as Israeli television stations released excerpts of an interview with the ship's Palestinian captain, now in Israeli custody.

Omar Akawi, 44, a colonel in the Palestinian naval police, said: "I got my instructions from Adel Mugrabi, Fathi Al Razem—both are close to Arafat."

Adel Mugrabi is the Palestinian chief of weapons procurement, while Fathi Al Razem is the deputy commander of the Palestinian naval force. *AFP*

US stops chasing shadows of Bin Laden, Omar

KABUL/WASHINGTON—The US bombing of Afghanistan entered its fourth month on Monday amid growing signs of frustration in Washington at the failure to capture Osama bin Laden and his top Taliban ally, Mullah Mohammad Omar.

A military spokesperson said US forces were going to stop "chasing the shadows" of Bin Laden and Mullah Omar, their two top targets in the Afghan war, and focus on wiping out remaining pockets of al-Qaida resistance while building better intelligence on the elusive leaders.

Bin Laden, whose al-Qaida network is blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States that killed about 3,000 people, and Mullah Omar, the leader of the deposed radical Islamic Taliban rulers of Afghanistan who gave al-Qaida shelter, have both eluded capture despite an intense manhunt.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the first Western head of government to visit Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban, and a delegation of US senators promised Kabul's new leaders they would not desert them after the war.

"We are not going to repeat the mistake that was made after the Soviets were pushed out of here and the rest of the world essentially walked away," Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain said after meeting Afghan interim Premier Hamid Karzai.

Washington lost interest in Afghanistan after its covert aid helped oust the invading Soviet Red Army in 1989, reigniting civil strife.

Connecticut Democrat Joseph Lieberman said, "We are going to be here a lot longer than the Taliban, together with our coalition partners, for the reconstruction of this country and the creation of democracy and real economic opportunity for the people."

Blair, who flew into Bagram after meeting Pakistani and Indian leaders in a bid to cool tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors, said, "Afghanistan has been a failed state for too long and the whole world has paid the price." *Reuters*

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Legazpi City
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Across the NATION
TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
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E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
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Kids seized for ₱50,000 rescued

BY CHITO A. FUENTES
AND JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—A police team rescued two siblings eight hours after they were kidnapped by three armed men from a private school here on Monday.

The kidnappers, however, managed to escape with P50,000 in ransom during the rescue operation in Sevilla town conducted by a team from the city police and the Regional Investigation and Intelligence Division (RIID).

Police authorities were criticized for the escape of the kidnappers, but Supt. Louie Oppus, city police chief, defended the rescue mission.

"I don't want to have three dead kidnappers if there are two dead kids," he said.

Oppus said the safety of the hostages "was the . . . primordial concern."

Oppus said the rescued victims, Ruth Adante, 14, and her brother John, 12, were brought by the police to their home in Taloto District in this city.

The Adantes belong to a middle class family. Their mother Teodorica is a homemaker while their father works abroad as a seaman.

The two children were kidnapped at around noon Monday while Teodorica, who was driving the family-owned maroon Mitsubishi Adventure van, was waiting yo fetch them inside the compound of the Bohol Wisdom School (BWS). Ruth is a third year high school student, while John is a Grade 6 student.

Three armed men forced her children into the van. One of them took the driver's seat from Teodorica.

The kidnappers drove the van outside the school's parking area and fled to Barangay Cambague, Sevilla town, 28 kilometers southwest of the city.

Teodorica was told to return to the city with the van and to Cambague between 4 and 5 p.m. with a P1.5-million ransom.

The woman, fearing for the safety of her children, did not report the kidnapping to the police and instead sought the assistance of several businessmen to help her raise the amount. One of the businessmen, however, informed the police about the kidnapping, according to Oppus.

Oppus said he talked to Teodorica and eventually convinced her to cooperate with the police. But she insisted on delivering the ransom as she feared that the kidnappers might harm her children.

Oppus said Teodorica went back to the area early in the evening with only P50,000 as "show money" to the kidnappers. But several policemen were already positioned near the meeting place before Teodorica returned to the area.

Oppus also coordinated with the Sevilla police, which formed a blockade to seal off possible exit points of the kidnappers. A team from the RIID headed by Supt. Jonathan Miano also went to Barangay Cambague.

While Teodorica was approaching Cambague, the kidnappers flagged her down and boarded her vehicle. While inside the car, the kidnappers panicked after noticing a checkpoint at one end and approaching vehicles at the other end.

They ordered Teodorica to stop the car and they scampered to different directions. But one of the kidnappers was still able to grab the bag containing the P50,000 ransom.

Oppus said the police later found the children abandoned near a ravine close to the meeting place. The victims were not harmed.

Oppus said he was relieved that his men were not trigger-happy because the outcome could have been different.

Chief Supt. Avelino Razon, police regional director, defended his men's actions, saying they just wanted to save the lives of the victims.

Besides, he added, his men had already identified the kidnappers, whom he described as "amateurs" and "local boys."

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northeastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao including Bicol region and Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 18°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 22° Lo 10°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 26° Lo 15°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 18°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 17°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 26° Lo 16°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 19°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 22°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/01/09/02

ROUNDUP

Election lawyer slain

COTABATO CITY—An unidentified man shot and killed a lawyer involved in an election controversy in Maguindanao. Killed was Kamid Abdul, counsel of Mayor Salipongan Dagloc of Kabuntalan, Maguindanao. He was gunned down outside the Hall of Justice Building here at around 2:30 p.m. Monday after attending a court hearing. Kabuntalan Vice Mayor Teng Lidasan, who was with the victim at the time of the killing, said they were aboard a jeep on their way out of the Department of Justice Complex inside the heavily guarded ARMM compound when a man approached them and fired at Abdul.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

DENR links to civil society

NAGA CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Bicol is establishing a Civil Society Action Network (CSAN) which will provide a window of cooperation and partnership with all environment and natural resources stakeholders, regional executive director Oscar Hamada said. The CSAN is being organized so that the DENR can efficiently deliver prompt services to stakeholders, Hamada said. The regional office of the CSAN will be composed of the regional executive directors and technical personnel from the different departments of the DENR.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Israeli gov't seeks partners

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—The Israeli government is seeking partners in putting up demonstration units that will showcase high technology in the production of crops aside from rice and corn. "We need partners in our desire to share the knowledge and knowhow accumulated through the years in Israel for the benefit of the Filipino farmers," said Israeli Ambassador Irit Ben-Abba during the recent inauguration of a greenhouse that will produce off-season crops. The Mashav (Center for International Cooperation) through the Israeli Embassy provided $25,000 for the construction of the greenhouse at the Central Luzon State University campus.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

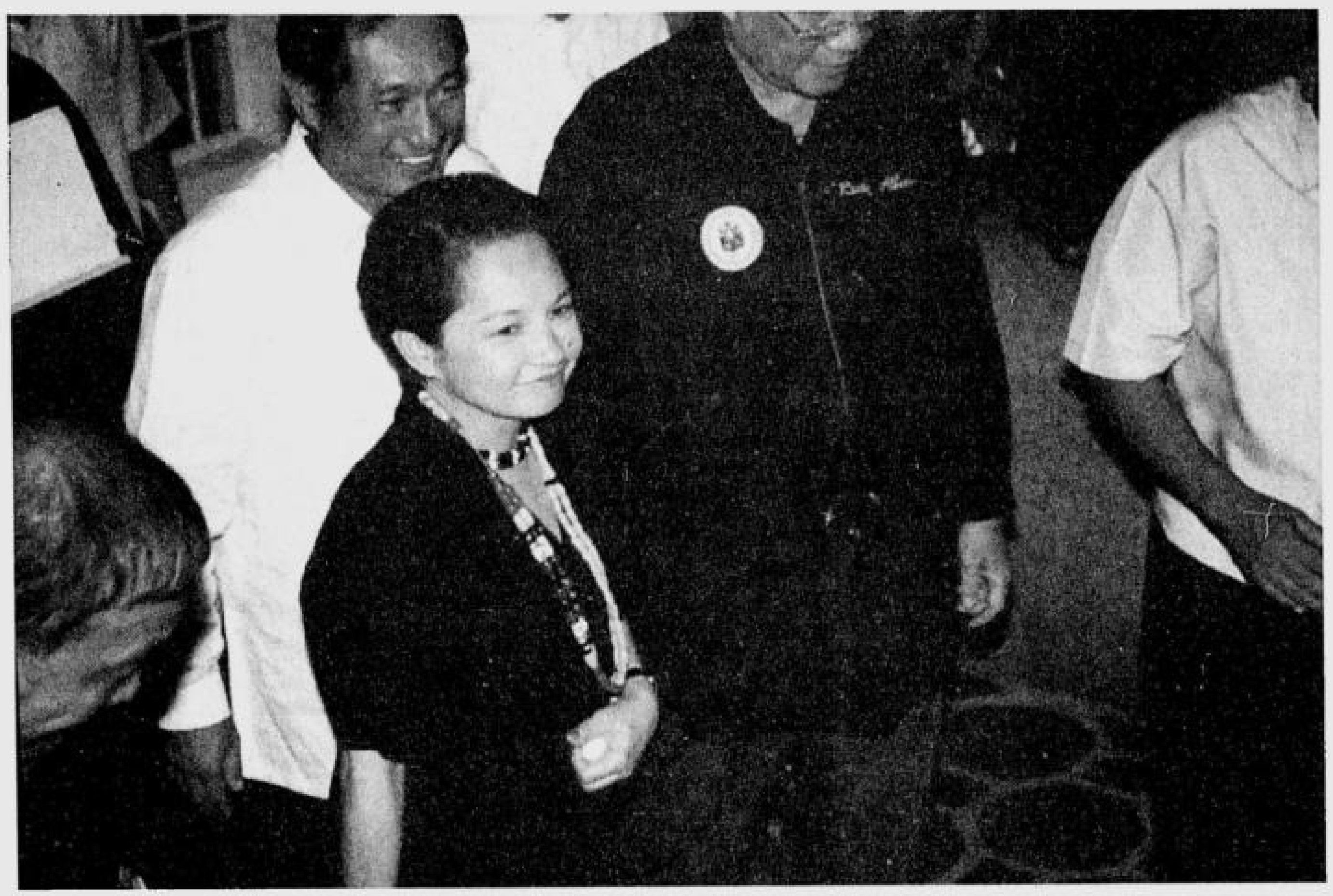
Low-cost housing for farmers

CABANATUAN CITY—*Nipa* huts, the farm family houses made popular by the well-known ditty "Bahay Kubo," will be replaced soon in Nueva Ecija by modular concrete houses with *tegula* (cement tiles) roofing. Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III said he was implementing the "Abot Kayang Pabahay para sa Magsasaka," a low-cost housing program for farmers in the province. At least 5,500 families may avail of the housing program under a financing arrangement with the LBP.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Mindanao media summit

BUTUAN CITY—A two-day First Media Summit is scheduled for Feb. 8-9 here at the Almont Inland Resort Hotel, according to Felix Villacastin, president of the Mindanao Media Association (MMA). The summit, sponsored by the MMA in cooperation with the Publishers Association of the Philippines Inc., the Mass Movement For Readership Inc. and other groups, will be attended by leaders of media associations from Mindanao, advocates of readership movements, printers, local and national officials. The theme of the meet is "The Role of Media in the Promotion of Peace and Sustainable Development." Tyrone Power Calo and Bella Hernandez and Noning Delgado, (tel. No. (085) 3425705, Fax (085) 3425726), are the coordinators. Its Manila coordinating center is at 3rd floor, Palacio Grande Bldg., Gen. Luna and Anda Streets, Intramuros, Manila, with tel. No. 5243440.



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is escorted by Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr.(in white barong) and Rep. Rodolfo Albano (in blue jacket) at the Army's 5th Infantry Division officers' clubhouse in Camp Upi in Gamu, Isabela Monday where she had dinner with local officials and stayed overnight.
BEN MOSES EBREO

Gloria puts emphasis on agriculture, tourism during North Luzon sortie

BY BEN MOSES EBREO
AND VILLAMOR VISAYA JR.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CAMP MELCHOR DE LA CRUZ, Isabela—President Macapagal-Arroyo visited three provinces in Northern Luzon on Monday and Tuesday to reiterate her commitment to promote agriculture and tourism and preserve cultural heritage and national security.

Upon her arrival at this Army Camp on Monday afternoon, Ms Macapagal, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. and local and military officials planted hybrid rice and cassava as a symbol of her support for agricultural development in Isabela.

Ms Macapagal said she was supporting the cassava plantation project in Isabela, undertaken by San Miguel Corp. and the provincial government, as part of her administration's thrust to create a million jobs in the country.

"Even one million hectares of cassava products have ready markets. This would improve poverty in the countryside and would solve the insurgency problem," she said.

She said the Chinese hybrid rice would increase the income of farmers by two-and-a-half times. "This hybrid rice was adopted (to) the conditions of the country so if we have good condition, it would increase production and give jobs," she said.

She said the hybrid rice would double domestic supply in the country.

Despite opposition from farmers, Ms Macapagal said she was supporting the cassava plantation project in the province because it will create jobs, stop insurgency and increase farmers' income.

"Insurgency persists because of dominant poverty. This will help our constituents," she told reporters here.

In Ifugao, the President promised to continue preserving the endangered Ifugao rice terraces to maintain their distinction as a cultural heritage.

"We will be going to preserve the (Ifugao) rice terraces to (promote) their cultural heritage," she said.

She said the centuries-old rice terraces have been neglected because of the refusal of young Ifugaos to farm due to inadequate yield in the terraces.

"The problem is young Ifugaos do not like farming anymore especially that antiquated type of farming," she said.

Local officials promised her to instill in the young Ifugaos' minds respect for the cultural heritage of the terraces.

"(Ifugao) Gov. (Teodoro) Baguilat Jr. promised me that they are imbibing now into the young . . . respect (for) the cultural heritage (of the terraces)," she said.

Ms Macapagal also transferred the task of developing the rice terraces from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Tourism.

"We cannot pretend that it is not productive as a farm. We have to recognize it as a cultural heritage," she said.

She added that the DOT has released P10 million to start measures to preserve the terraces in the wake of the government's agricultural modernization program.

"We have to recognize it as a cultural heritage but it is endangered," she said.

She said she met with Baguilat and Ifugao Rep. Solomon Chungalao and discussed plans and ways to save and develop the terraces.

Chungalao, it was learned, has asked the help of Ms Macapagal and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to certify as urgent his bill seeking to provide P100 million to rehabilitate the endangered terraces.

The bill aims to create an Ifugao Terraces Authority, an agency that was patterned after "autonomous, self-liquidating state agencies like the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.".

Girl, 6, hurt in 2 grenade explosions

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A 6-year-old girl was hurt in two grenade explosions in Polomolok, South Cotabato on Monday evening.

The victim was identified as Dianne Meryl Delgado, granddaughter of Javier Ortouste, a resident of Citizens' Village in Polomolok.

Delgado suffered shrapnel wounds in the back and is confined at the General Santos Doctors' Hospital.

The Ortoustes were partying at around 8:25 p.m. when three persons reportedly lobbed the MK2 and M26 grenades.

One of the grenades went off near the gate, while the other exploded just beside the wall of the Ortouste compound.

Pieces of shrapnel and the strong impact of the blasts damaged the windshield of a Tamaraw FX and a tricycle parked nearby.

Police recovered remains of the grenades from the scene of the explosions.

"The suspects merely intended to harass or intimidate and not to kill, as the grenades were thrown outside the residence," said Chief Insp. Rex Anongos, Polomolok police chief.

The Ortoustes said "we don't know of anybody harboring rancor against us."

In Tagum City, a policeman was killed while six others were injured when a grenade he was carrying exploded inside an LCI bus on Saturday night.

Senior Supt. Leonil Palumar, Tagum City police chief, said PO3 Stephen Carpentero, who was assigned to the Compostela Valley police headquarters, died when his grenade exploded. *Aquiles Zonio and Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Floods cost S. Mindanao ₱200M in losses

DAVAO CITY—Damage to infrastructure projects and crops wrought by the recent flashflood that hit four provinces in Southern Mindanao reached P203.4 million, the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) here said.

Carmelito Lupo, RDCC chief operations officer, also said a total of 169,493 people were affected by floods in three cities and 19 municipalities of Davao City, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley.

Hardest hit was Davao City with 60,285 victims, followed by Davao del Norte, 38,484; Tagum City, 24,970; Panabo City, 24,636; Compostela Valley, 21,090; and Davao del Sur, 28.

Lupo said there were eight deaths, eight injuries and four people still missing.

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong, who flew to this city on Saturday, estimated the infrastructure damage at P116.4 million. Most of the damage was inflicted on bridges and roads.

Thirteen bridges were damaged (six in Davao City, five in Compostela Valley and one in Davao Oriental) while 71 houses were destroyed and 568 others damaged.

Roger Tiu, regional director of the Department of Agriculture, also estimated the damage to agriculture at P87 million.

Tiu said some 5,000 hectares of ricefields and hectares of fish ponds were destroyed by floods in Compostela Valley and Davao del Norte.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Health and the RDCC are leading efforts of national government agencies and local government units and civic groups to provide assistance to families.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

5 more bodies found in Pampanga

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Pampanga continued to be the favorite dumping ground of victims of summary executions as police found five dead men in Mexico and Lubao towns on Monday.

Renato Esponilla, 51, Roy Cinco, 36, and William Dizon, 28, bore bullet wounds in their faces and heads when policemen recovered their bodies in a sugarcane field in Barangay Akli in Mexico, north of this regional police camp.

The three, residents of Barangays Concepcion, Bagong Nayon and Sulipan in Baliuag, Bulacan, were peddlers of cooking ware, a police report showed.

Residents reported hearing a series of gunshots in Barangay Suclaban, Mexico, at dawn Monday. By past noon, farmers found the bodies in the nearby village of Akli.

Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Pampanga police chief, said the three men did not die in an encounter with Army soldiers and policemen as an earlier report reaching the INQUIRER said.

"It is a multiple murder case," Rafanan said.

The killers have yet to be identified. Policemen reported recovering a hand grenade and two spent bullets from a .45 cal. revolver and a 9-mm pistol from the crime scene.

At the lahar dike in Barangay Sta. Catalina in Lubao town, police reported finding two decomposing bodies also on Monday.

The victims were identified as Reynaldo Chavian, 33, and his brother Jose, 31, both residents of the town. The brothers disappeared on Christmas Eve and apparently died from hacking, police investigators said.

Police said the brothers were probably dead for more than a week before residents discovered their decomposing bodies.

During the last two years, about 20 people, including two male foreigners, were found dead in Mexico, Minalin and Lubao towns. *Tonette Orejas with a report from Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Youths not keen on listing up for SK elections

BY ALEX V. PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—For a city with an estimated 20,000 people aged between 15 and 21 years old, only 1,146 young voters went to register for the Sangguniang Kabataan elections in May.

Data from the Commission on Elections (Comelec) provincial office showed that of the five cities in Negros Oriental, Dumaguete registered the second lowest number of new young voters.

The Dumaguete figures were only slightly better than those in Canlaon City, which had 1,120 registered voters.

Bais City had the most young voters at 2,559, followed by Bayawan City at 1,965 and Tanjay City, 1,710.

The same list showed that the number of young voters in Dumaguete could be lower compared to figures in Ayungon town, which had 1,197 new voters.

Another surprising result was that in Guihulngan town, the biggest municipality in Negros Oriental, which reported that only 519 young voters registered.

The town of Sta. Catalina has the most registered new voters at 2,890.

Other towns, which had fewer than 1,000 new voters, were Amlan (778), San Jose (393), Sibulan (697), Basay (783) and Zamboanguita (559).

Provincial election supervisor Rogelio Benjamin said many young voters were not interested in registering for the SK elections because they were given a short time to register.

The Comelec gave the youths only 16 days to register. Registration for the SK elections started Dec. 10 and ended on Dec. 26.

During the registration period, Benjamin said it was raining most of the time, which discouraged the youths from going to the Comelec office in their localities to register.

Benjamin said he stayed in his office on Christmas Day, hoping that someone might drop by to register. No one came.

TARGET PUSHERS

Vigilante killings resume in Digos

DIGOS CITY—After a lull of more than a week, killings involving the Digos Death Squad (DDS) resumed here.

Suspected members of the vigilante group gunned down at least two suspected pushers here last week, but as usual, the police said they have no hint about the identity of the killers.

On Sunday night, motorcycle-riding gunmen shot Leone Solatorio inside the Ravina Compound on Lopez Jaena Street. Solatorio, 51, died while being treated at the Davao del Sur provincial hospital.

The day before the execution of Solatorio, suspected vigilante hit men also shot and killed 28-year-old Alex Cudera, of Roxas Extension.

Cudera was riding a motorcycle on his way home, when he was flagged down by at least two suspects in a dimly lit portion of the street near his house.

As soon as the victim slowed down, the suspects pumped bullets into his body.

SPO3 Benjamin Ducala, a police investigator said they recovered six spent bullets of a 9 mm pistol from where Cudera was gunned down.

Chief Insp. Noel Saniel, Digos City police chief, said police have no clue on who did the killings and whether they were really perpetrated by a vigilante group.

Gov. Reynerio Llanos said he believes the execution of suspected drug pushers were the work of drug dealers themselves.

"I do not believe that there is such a thing as a vigilante group. It is more likely that drug dealers themselves perpetrated the killings. Maybe, the victims failed to pay their dues," Llanos said.

Mayor Arsenio Latasa said he is more inclined to believe, however, that there is a vigilante group or groups behind the slayings.

"It could be that these are people who became fed up with the drug menace. I would like to remind them, however, that it is still wrong for them to take the life of suspected pushers," Latasa said.

In Davao City, the recent killings involving yet another alleged vigilante group appeared to have failed in ridding the city of its drug problem.

Reports reaching the INQUIRER indicated that drug pushers have resumed their activities, despite the death last year of at least 15 suspected drug peddlers.

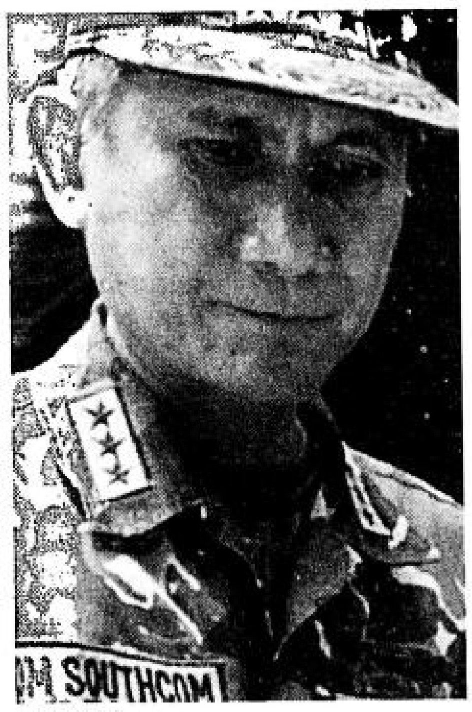
Drug pushers, according to the police, have also apparently become more determined to pursue their trade.

This assessment was prompted by the death on Sunday evening of a police informer in the hands of suspected drug pushers.

PO3 John Rendaje, homicide investigator of the Sasa police station, said that Rey Ledesma, 33, a vendor and a resident of Bolinao, Sasa was shot by two suspected pushers.

Ledesma earlier provided information that led to the arrest of the mother of a wanted drug suspect. ***Anthony Allada with a report from Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

US forces want Zambo to host next war games



CIMATU

ZAMBOANGA CITY—US military forces want to hold the next joint military exercise with Philippine soldiers in this city, the Armed Forces' Southern Command said.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Southern Command chief, said the idea to hold Balikatan 2002 in Zamboanga City was a "welcome development."

Although there is still no definite date for the conduct of the joint military exercise, Cimatu said the city would be an ideal host.

"We have all the military installations and facilities that could address the needs of these exercises," Cimatu said, identifying the Southern Command and the headquarters of the Task Force Zamboanga in Barangay Malagutay as venues of the war games.

The Edwin Andrews Airbase of the Philippine Air Force and the Majini Pier of the Naval Forces South Command are the other ideal venues, said Southcom spokesperson Capt. Noel Detoyato.

But Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta Jr. said holding the war games in any part of Mindanao was unlikely because of the peace and order problem.

"That maybe a possibility, but the primary requirement for this exercise is security, and as far as we are concerned, the Balikatan 2002 will not be held in any place in Mindanao," Mabanta told INQUIRER.

But Cimatu said Zamboanga City "is safe for the conduct of the training."

He said the plan is still on the drawing table but the AFP and its US counterparts are "still fine-tuning it, formulating policies."

"It's a welcome opportunity and this could boost the infrastructure development here because one of the components is a civic action (during which war games participants) are expected to construct school buildings, roads and bridges."

Meanwhile, Detoyato said 25 US coordinators are expected to arrive in this city in the middle of this month to check on the preparations for the training of two companies of Filipino soldiers.

A center for the trainers and trainees, a service support system and other vital pieces of equipment are being built in Barangay Malagutay, Detoyato said.

The training will last for at least six months.

US soldiers were sent to Mindanao to help track down Abu Sayyaf bandits who are still keeping an American couple and a nurse hostage.

The soldiers were sent to train Philippine troopers who are pursuing the bandits, but there were reports that the Americans may take part in actual pursuit operations.

The reports drew harsh criticisms from Leftist organizations.

The US government earlier sent military equipment to help the Philippine military improve its combat capacity.

Despite the assistance, however, key leaders of the Abu Sayyaf continued to elude capture and have made a mockery of the Philippine Army.

Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Court stops layoff of 1,000

PAGADIAN CITY—A local court here has issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) against the Zamboanga del Sur provincial government stopping its plan to purge more than 1,000 regular employees.

The order came after Malacañang in December last year issued a stern warning to provincial officials of Zamboanga del Sur and the newly formed Zamboanga Sibugay province to strictly adhere to the guidelines of purging and accepting retrenched workers.

Malacañang also told Gov. George Hofer of Zamboanga Sibugay to give preference to retrenched workers from Zamboanga del Sur.

The layoff of more than 1,000 regular capitol employees came after Zamboanga Sibugay was carved out of Zamboanga del Sur.

Gov. Aurora Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur claimed that the streamlining was necessary after its share in the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) was sliced off and given to Zamboanga Sibugay.

Cerilles issued termination orders in November to take effect on Dec. 31, which the employees described as the harshest and most cruel Christmas present they received.

She said the provincial government could no longer afford to pay its huge bureaucracy due to a budget deficit.

Judge Loreto Quinto of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 30 in Zamboanga del Sur on Jan. 2 issued a TRO against Cerilles and members of the provincial board represented by Vice Gov. Roseller Ariosa stopping them from implementing the reorganization.

But Roger Montealto, acting provincial administrator, described the issuance of the TRO as a form of political harassment.

In an interview with a local radio station here, Montealto said Cerilles' political detractors were allegedly behind the TRO issuance. He did not elaborate.

He said the TRO was not meant for the retrenched workers, but only for the six petitioners.

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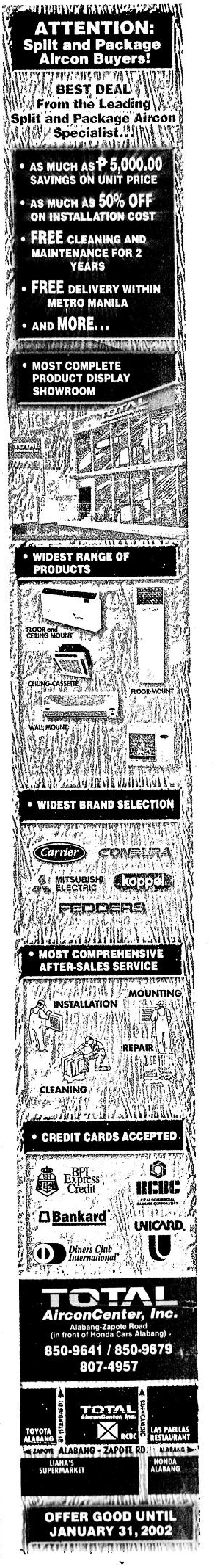
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QUIRINO'S AGTA

Nomadic folk no more

BY MAURICE MALANES
Nagtipunan, Quirino

ONCE they wandered around the virgin forests of the Sierra Madre and never starved. The wild boar, deer and river eels they hunted and the wild yam and fruits they gathered were more than enough for survival.

So healthy was their organic diet that they could walk for miles without complaining. And they were so agile that during the last world war, they could outrun Japanese soldiers looking for Filipino guerrillas.

A culture of communal sharing enabled them all the more to enjoy the blessings and abundance of the wild.

"If one of us caught a boar or a deer, he would make it a point to share it equally with his neighbors so that each of us could survive," said Marcelino David, an Agta leader.

Such was the way of life of the Agta, who knew every nook and cranny of the Sierra Madre mountain range that stretches from Aurora to Nueva Vizcaya.

But such way of life would not last for long. "There came a time when we couldn't wander anymore," said David, 50, in fluent Tagalog. "There simply were no boars and deer to hunt. Life had become hard for us."

The kinky-haired and dark-skinned Agta could not be blamed for the disappearance of the boars and deer. The real culprit was corporate logging.

AGTA children in Tilitilan village in Nagtipunan, Quirino. MAURICE MALANES

Pushed to the fringes

Caloy David, Marcelino's younger brother, recalled that during the regime of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, logging companies were felling giant centuries-old red and white lauan trees, which were so big that not even five people could embrace one.

From the 1960s to 1992, big logging firms laid their hands on Quirino's forests. Using bulldozers and armed with 25-50 year timber license agreements (TLAs), the firms forced their way into the province's virgin forests, toppling ancient trees with their chainsaws.

Migrant settlers from other provinces, many of them from the Cordillera, followed the trail of the loggers. They transformed the logged-over areas into *kaingin* or swidden farms, further pushing the Agta to the fringes.

With their forest habitat gone, the wild boars and deer vanished, and hunger stalked the tribe.

The Agta people, who were still nomadic until 1994, had nowhere else to go.

Bracing for change

Aside from assuming Christian names, the Davids and more than 500 other Agta in the upland villages of Tilitilan and Diyoryong in Nagtipunan town at the foot of the Sierra Madre have to brace themselves for a drastic change in their lives.

They have to settle down and practically start from scratch to learn the ABCs of farming, even as they strive to learn the three Rs (reading, writing and arithmetic).

Without any other choice, they had to try *kaingin* farming, which the migrant settlers introduced.

Fortunately, in recognition of Quirino's watershed role, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources embarked on a program to help save whatever is left of the forests.

One of the DENR's strategies was employing indigenous peoples, like the Agta, to take care of the forests. To do this, the department reckoned it would be wise to ensure that the people must have a sense of ownership over the forest area that the government would entrust to them.

In early 1996, the DENR, along with indigenous peoples' advocacy groups, oriented the Agta folk on how to protect, manage and wisely use the resources of the forests.

The DENR then issued a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim or CADC, which formally recognized the Agta's ancestral right over some 10,740 hectares covering secondary-growth forests in Tilitilan and Diyoryong.

Four hundred hectares of the CADC-covered land were designated as a community farm zone, where the people can cultivate *camote* (sweet potato), upland rice, bananas, cassava and other crops.

As CADC holder, the Agta community is also expected to protect their ancestral domain from encroachers, be they loggers or *kaingin* farmers.

The official recognition of the Agta's ancestral land has proved to be a big leap forward for the erstwhile nomads.

As one of the beneficiaries of the Philippine-German Community Forestry Project-Quirino or the CFPQ, the Agta folk are gradually learning new agro-forestry techniques, such as interspersing betel nuts with banana and planting commercial trees, such as gmelina and mahogany, along with citrus and other fruit trees.

They have also striven to try their hand in business, such as marketing their bananas. But traders often take advantage of the Agta's illiteracy, complained Barawis Sanchez, a tribal elder.

"One time, I counted 1,000 bananas, but a trader paid for only 700 bananas," David said.

Among the Agta villagers of Tilitilan and Diyoryong, at least one was able to reach Grade 4, the highest level of formal education ever attained by an Agta in the two neighboring villages in 1996 when a school opened in the community.

A religious group, which baptized the Agta folk with the names of Westerners and lowlanders, also embarked on non-formal education in the two villages, teaching the three Rs to adults and children while introducing the upland folk to biblical passages.

But the religious group left and the public school closed.

"For now, our common wish in our community is to be able to read, write and count," said David. "Our parents and ancestors taught us to hunt and we survived. But for our children to survive, we need to go to school."

THE ONCE-GLEAMING mound of the Salt Springs of Salinas is now a grim reminder of man's greed and indifference to the environment. MELVIN GASCON

Demise of revered N. Vizcaya symbol

BY MELVIN GASCON
Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya

"At early dawn the next day, Yumina walked to the mountain. As soon as she reached the spot, she placed the bow and arrow on the grass and uttered and lay prostrate on the grave of her husband. She knelt facing east and said, 'Oh, my dear goddess, I pray that as life ebbs away from me, thou wilt cover me with salt so that the tears I shed for my husband will be preserved.' Then she took the arrow, stabbed herself and uttered a sharp cry."

— From the Legend of Salinas Salt Springs

FOR GENERATIONS, the Salinas Salt Springs was revered as a symbol of the peace-loving, virtuous and generous people of Nueva Vizcaya.

But lately, many wondered what has become of this once-majestic attraction deep in the rural environs of Barangay Salinas in Bambang town.

Shortly after the Magnitude-7 earthquake in 1990 that shook most parts of Luzon, the water flow in the springs gradually decreased. A few years later, the springs dried up.

By word of mouth, the Salinas Salt Springs was said to have come to its natural death. Those who knew and used to visit the place and marvel at its splendor could not help but grieve.

It is said that its demise was caused, not only by natural factors, but primarily by man's sheer neglect of the environment.

From Barangay Salinas, about 10 km from the town proper, the road that goes up to a nearby mountain village provides access to a pathway, now swarming with thick wild shrubs, that leads to the salt springs.

Traces of what used to be a premier tourist attraction remain visible, from the pathway to the white rocks that line the foot trail and the rows of mahogany trees that stand like sentinels to its once pristine beauty.

After a 100-meter trek from the road, the mounds of the Salinas Salt Springs, nestled 550 meters above sea level on a ridge, come into full view.

It is grim, however.

The once-whitish mounds formed through years of continuous spring flow are now blackened by nature's activities. The springs have dried up.

This time, its daunting stance greets visitors, no longer the usual radiance that once captivated the hearts of many.

But just like that of Gumined and Yumina, the affection of the people in Bambang for the Salinas Salt Springs refuses to die.

Serious efforts

Serious efforts to revive the salt springs began in 1994, when Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani formed a task force to map out plans for rehabilitation.

Shortly after, local officials requested the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to conduct a geologic investigation into the possible causes of the springs' demise.

In its report, the MGB team noted that the springs' source was plugged with re-deposited calcite minerals. "The custom of tourists dropping coins into the wells may have helped arrest the flow of water," the team noted.

Later that year, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology sent a team, led by Director Raymundo Punongbayan, to Salinas following reports of rumblings in the area, which were suspected to be volcanic or earthquake-related.

In the process, the team analyzed the possibility of rehabilitating the springs.

The Phivolcs study attributed the stoppage of spring flow to the tightening up of underground fissures due to the 1990 earthquake and the "redirection of groundwater resulting from cavern collapse."

But the most plausible and verifiable cause of death, according to the study, is "the denudation of the watershed area located upstream of the spring site."

Not salt?

In August 2000, geologists from Placer Philippines Exploration Ltd., one of the mining companies that conducted the exploration for gold and copper in the mountains of Nueva Vizcaya, made its own study of the Salinas phenomenon.

The findings were startling. Salinas Salt Springs, they concluded, could be a misnomer.

Popular concept

"Contrary to popular concept, the salt deposit that through the years built up the knobby hills is not the rock salt or table salt (sodium chloride) deposited from seawater but actually what geologists call travertine, a type of calcium carbonate similar in composition to limestone but volcanic in origin," the Placer report said.

However, the residents disagree. In fact, they said, Filipino guerrillas during World War II cooked water from the springs to produce table salt.

Placer geologists doubt the prospects of reviving the springs.

"There is probably not much we can do to revive the springs that used to deposit the white travertine that had kept the Salinas 'salt' hills growing and gleaming white," they said.

In the latest study conducted in October 2000 by another mining company, Dalton Pacific Resources Inc. (DPRI), it was found that the blackening of the Salinas white mound has been caused by natural bacteria, fungus, lichen and dirt, which grow or get captured on the surface of the white knoll.

"This is natural and (it) will continue," the DPRI report said.

In the course of their study, DPRI geologists discovered a new spring about 50 meters below the base of the lowest mound.

The Salt Springs task force proposed that a pool be constructed to impound water from the spring and have it pumped back and poured over the top of the mound.

"However, this proposal was found to be too expensive for us," Agbayani said. "Besides, there is no assurance that we will get the desired results (of bringing back the gleam of the mound)."

Cleansing the hill, possibly with detergents, was also suggested but later rejected, as this might corrode part of the rock surface and cause it to wear off, he explained.

Also, the task force recommended painting the mound white which, they said, will bring it back to its original appearance, and at the same time put temporary protective surface on the natural mineral.

"However, (painting it) removes its genuineness, and this may not have a good impression on visitors. It's as if we're trying to deceive them," Agbayani said.

'Joe Seconds' and the slow ride to Tubo

BY FRANK CIMATU
Baguio City

FOUR years ago, an East European patient of Mayor Jose Segundo of Tubo, Abra, was so ecstatic about the local official's miraculous healing that he told Segundo that he would give him anything he wanted.

Segundo jokingly asked for a helicopter, saying it takes him 10 hours to reach Tubo from Baguio City. And that is, when the roads and the Abra River are passable.

During the rainy months, Tubo and other interior towns are isolated from the rest of the world. Much to Segundo's surprise, the patient gave him a helicopter.

The problem, of course, was how to bring the helicopter to the country. As far as this correspondent knows, that helicopter may now be in one of the Bureau of Customs warehouses or is still in Hungary.

Segundo was, however, able to bring in his Mercedes Benz from Europe, and he had been using that car for seven years.

When he went home to Abra, he left his car in the capital town of Bangued and sometimes rode a horse to his hometown.

Segundo was riding a horse when he was shot and killed by still unidentified men at Barangay Tubtuba in Tubo on Dec. 27.

No one knew who killed him, but fingers were initially pointed at New People's Army rebels, who are still active in the remote villages of Tubo, near the boundaries of Mt. Province and Ilocos Sur.

His bodyguards said Segundo had no premonition about his death and was even considering marrying a Tubo lass next month.

If ever Segundo had any qualms about his position, it was about the government-imposed limit of time he was allowed to leave the country.

Faith healing

The two months he spent abroad yearly, he went to Eastern Europe to practice his faith healing. "People lined up for my healing sessions," Segundo once said.

Segundo was often nicknamed "Joe Seconds" by fellow healers because it literally took him a few seconds to do his healing sessions.

Before every session, Segundo usually read passages from the Bible to his throng. He used most of the money he earned from healing on his constituents, he said.

THE LATE Mayor Jose Segundo of Tubo, Abra, in one of his healing sessions with a Japanese patient.

He was often asked why he still bothered to be the mayor of a town so remote. Segundo always answered that he wanted to uplift the plight of his people.

The P2-million Tubo municipal hall was partly funded by Segundo's faith healing.

Internationally famous faith healer Alex Orbito flew all the way from Spain to visit his long-time friend in his wake in Baguio last week.

Segundo was among the four founders of the Philippine Healers' Circle, of which Orbito is the long-time president.

"Being a healer is being in public service," Orbito said.

"Segundo had a genuine love of his town; that's why he chose to run for mayor there. He always said he wanted to uplift his town-mates' plight."

Orbito said the PHC, which has 500 members here and abroad, will set up a foundation in honor of Segundo to help the people of Tubo.

Segundo, who belonged to the Maeng tribe, remembered his mother telling him that when he was a baby, he got so sick that his parents thought he would die. The hospital was a two-day hike away and they had no money. He survived through his father's herbal concoctions.

Segundo remembered being sickly as a child. In one of those times he was ill, he saw a white cloud hover over Tubo and it seemed to be talking to him. After that Segundo became sick for three days.

The village elders called for the sacrifice of a pig. His parents borrowed money to get the animal and Segundo was healed.

After recovering, Segundo became a healer, extracting tooth with his bare hands.

Assistant

In 1964, he came to Baguio and tried to make it as a faith healer. In the late 1970s, he became an assistant of Ramon "Jun" Labo Jr. In 1982, he went abroad for the first time as a healer.

As years passed, he was able to buy an apartment unit near the foot of the Lourdes Shrine in Baguio.

When then President Corazon Aquino was looking for an OIC (officer in charge) mayor for Tubo in 1987, Segundo presented himself. In 1995, he was elected into office and again won in the 2001 elections.

"Not bad for someone who never went to school," Segundo had always said.

He said he always dreamt of putting up a hospital in Tubo, but he had not fulfilled that dream. When he was shot, he was brought to the Cervantes Hospital in Ilocos Sur, which is about a two-hour ride away.

This time, no miracles followed him and "Joe Seconds" died before reaching the hospital.

Solon justifies past coups

(From page A1)

tent: "They want a good society. When they see the whole Filipino society as getting frustrated and freaked out because of injustice, they step in."

"Crazy people" are recruiting junior and senior officers of the military to overthrow the Macapagal administration, according to Col. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp).

But Corpus, who made the remarks at the "Bulung Pulungan" forum yesterday at the Westin Philippine Plaza, was quick to say that the cabal had not made headway.

"Some crazy people are trying to recruit from the military but they cannot get anyone because a lot of officers have been burned with all this coup talk," he said in Taglish.

Pressed to say whether junior or senior officers were being recruited, Corpus said: "*Sari-sari* (from all ranks)." He declined to elaborate.

But he said any effort to overthrow the administration "will never gain the support of the people and will never succeed."

"The Filipino people will reject these things," Corpus said. "You can dream about a coup but it's different to carry it out. Any small group can conduct destabilization (actions) like assassinations or bombings. But to mobilize the people together with the Armed Forces to overthrow this government is something else. It's not feasible right now because there is no sufficient cause for the people to rise up against the government."

Last resort

Magsaysay said he believed that military intervention in any affair of the state, specifically a change of government, should be the last resort.

"I am not trying to justify (it)," he said. "I'm just saying that if that is a last resort, given the temper of the citizenry, then (the military) might as well support the Filipino people. It's a judgment call, but it should also be a real last resort."

According to Magsaysay, there is no coup plot against the administration because today's military is professional.

He said the Commission on Appointments' confirmation of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva last month was intended to stabilize the military and depoliticize it.

Magsaysay refused to relate the murder of Baron Cervantes, the self-styled spokesperson of the Young Officers Union (YOU), to the alleged coup plot, saying the motive could be personal.

Depoliticize military

He also said the government was moving to depoliticize the military by passing the bill concerning the Reserve Officers Training Course (ROTC), which would make it become "more marketable."

About 80 percent of the military officers come from the ROTC, he said.

Earlier, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel urged Malacañang to immediately depoliticize the military in order to spare the country from recurrent coup threats and to achieve political stability.

"Although the (AFP) played a decisive role in installing the (Macapagal administration) they must not meddle in the political decisions of the government," Pimentel said.

He said a politicized military was also a stumbling block to instilling professionalism in and maintaining discipline among soldiers.

'Witchhunt'

Pimentel cited the "dangerous" tendency of the military to participate in political activities such as investigations and the "witchhunt" of political adversaries of the administration.

"The military should stick to fighting the enemies of the state—the insurgents and terrorists," he said.

Pimentel also said that should a coup attempt succeed, the Philippines was in danger of becoming a banana republic, like the unstable countries in South America in previous decades where it was commonplace for generals and colonels to grab power.

"If the present government will be replaced by a military coup, what guarantee is there that the next government will not be toppled by similar means?" he said.

Connections

Corpus said the Isafp was looking into the connection between the alleged coup plot and the recovery of a large cache of explosives from the men of Lt. Senior Grade Donn Anthony Miraflor of the now disbanded Special Reaction Unit of the Navy's elite Special Warfare Group.

"We're trying to find out. We are investigating," said Corpus, adding that the more than 100 blocks of C-4 explosives and around 12 blocks of TNT recovered was "enough to destroy about 25 buildings" and "create a lot of havoc."

He said the Isafp was also studying the possible link between Cervantes' killing and the recruitment of military officers for the supposed coup plot.

"It could be (connected). We are looking at the angle that there was a report submitted by Baron to (Council on Philippine Affairs secretary general) Pastor Saycon that included Miraflor," Corpus said.

He said the Isafp was investigating whether someone higher than Miraflor was involved.

But Corpus said that with the confiscation of the explosives, any more moves by Miraflor or those controlling him to destabilize the government would fail.

"Their capability (to launch destabilizing moves) was greatly reduced when we recovered the explosives," he said.

The seizure of the explosives led to the arrest on Dec. 28 of Miraflor, a member of Class 1991 of the Philippine Military Academy, and eight of his men.

Valeroso

YOU co-founder Supt. Diosdado Valeroso showed up yesterday at the Southern Police District headquarters in connection with the investigation of his alleged involvement in the New Year's Eve murder of Cervantes.

But Valeroso refused to comment on reports that he and other YOU officers might be behind the killing. He delivered a letter for SPD chief Jose Gutierrez Jr. asking the head of Task Force Cervantes to enumerate the allegations that he needed to answer.

The officer was accompanied by businessman Welson Chua, whose cadet son was murdered last March for exposing the alleged anomalies in his school's ROTC program.

"I would appreciate if you could itemize the so-called media allegations to which I have to present my side," Valeroso wrote in his letter dated Jan. 7.

He added: "As of now, my knowledge of the killing of Cervantes is limited only to unverified news reports available to the public.

"Just imagine, Sir, if all our police officers were to answer all these 'media allegations' every time an issue comes up. It will be a field day for the media, indeed!"

Gutierrez summoned Valeroso on Saturday to shed light on Cervantes' killing.

In an intelligence report he delivered to Copa's Saycon hours before he was killed, Cervantes named Valeroso among the six police and military officers supposedly behind the alleged destabilization plot against the Macapagal administration.

The other alleged coup plotters—retired Navy Capt. Proceso Maligalig, retired Col. Romeo Lim, Supt. Rafael Cardeño and retired Gen. Edgardo Abenina—are expected to undergo questioning at the SPD beginning today, according to Supt. Oscar Catalan, chief of the SPD investigation and intelligence division.

Saycon refused to release a copy of the intelligence report. But he told the INQUIRER Sunday that Maligalig was not mentioned in the document.

On the day he was killed, Cervantes had a total of 17 text exchanges with Valeroso pertaining to issues such as the YOU leadership.

Emerging from a one-hour meeting with Catalan at the SPD yesterday, Valeroso went straight to his vehicle and tried to elude reporters.

But when asked if he was being considered a suspect in the Cervantes murder, he replied in Filipino: "There's no such angle." ***With a report from Christian V. Esguerra***

Now Erap wants to go to his trial

(From page A1)

The court eventually excused him from the trial in November last year after his lawyers began citing his health problems like his then cataract-stricken left eye and arthritic knees.

But yesterday the jailed ex-president indicated that he wanted to be in the thick of courtroom action.

"*Naiinip na kasi ako. Isa pa para ma*-interview. *Kahit papaano sa* Sandiganbayan *merong* ambush (interview) (I'm bored. At least, I get interviewed by the media at the Sandiganbayan)" Estrada yesterday told the INQUIRER.

Through a manifestation filed by lawyer Rene Saguisag, Estrada expressed his desire to be in court for the Jan. 14 hearing of his eight-month old trial.

The pleading did not cite the reason behind Estrada's about-face.

Estrada said he also wanted to see how his lawyers would grill prosecution witness Willie Ng Ocier, who last Monday delivered the most damaging blows so far against the ousted president.

Ocier, vice chair of the gaming firm Belle Corp., testified on Monday that a P189.7-million I-Bank check was issued by the SSI Management, the company that sold Belle shares to the Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System in October 1999, to pay the commission allegedly demanded by Estrada.

But defense lawyers maintained that Ocier's statements against Estrada were merely based on what Jaime Dichaves, an Estrada pal and Belle board member, had told him at the time of the sale.

At one point in that hearing, Ocier said it was Dichaves who actually received the check, but that it was Dichaves who revealed that Estrada would eventually get the money.

Prosecutors are expected to establish in today's hearing how the check ended up being deposited in the controversial Jose Velarde account at Equitable PCIBank, which Estrada was said to own.

But the ex-president yesterday argued that when the infamous "second envelope" of his aborted impeachment trial was opened shortly after his ouster, it yielded bank records showing that the account really belonged to Dichaves.

Ocier's direct examination resumes today. Estrada wants to be in court on Monday, when the witness would be turned over to the defense panel for cross-examination.

Estrada also defended the holding of a "movie press conference" by his son Jinggoy on Dec. 28 at their place of detention, the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

He said the affair was not a Christmas Party as claimed by the militant group Pamalakaya, but a "movie launch" of Jinggoy's movie "Walang Iwanan, Peksman," which was attended mainly by show biz writers.

True, 10 TV sets and 10 video disc players were raffled off to the guests, he said.

But he clarified that the TV sets were "donations to Jinggoy from his friends from the time he was still mayor" of San Juan.

The VCD players were courtesy of Sanyo, which entered into an "exchange deal" with the movie production, he added.

Estrada also confirmed that round-trip tickets to Hong Kong were also raffled off, but these prizes came from businessman Johnny Ng of DN Steel, a *kumpare* of Jinggoy's.

Aside from members of the movie press, present in that Dec. 28 movie launch were Estrada's celebrity buddies like actor Rudy Fernandez, Philip Salvador and former professional basketball player Philip Cezar, who served as Jinggoy's vice mayor.

Asked how they were able to mount such an event while in detention, Estrada said they "asked for a permit from the VMMC director" to use the VMMC auditorium near the presidential suite where the Estradas are detained.

SC forms 'special division'

IT'S just a matter of days before the Supreme Court names the members of a newly created "special division" in the Sandiganbayan devoted exclusively to trying cases of deposed President Joseph Estrada, according to Associate Justice Narciso Nario.

Nario, chair of the anti-graft court's 4th division, yesterday told reporters that the Sandiganbayan would submit to the Supreme Court within the week "guidelines" on who among the Sandiganbayan's 14 magistrates can be available for that special task.

Three justices so far have indicated they don't want to handle any Estrada case, according to Nario. They are Gregory Ong, Raoul Victorino and Godofredo Legaspi.

Four justices are retiring in 2002 and are thus unlikely to be considered for the special division, according to Nario. He was referring to himself, Nicodemo Ferrer, Catalino Castañeda, and Anacleto Badoy.

Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena is unlikely to be considered since he has been temporarily relieved of his duties by the Supreme Court since December last year.

The high court gave Garchitorena six months to address the backlog of unresolved cases in the first division, which he chaired.

This leaves 6 out of 14 justices as possible nominees to the special "Estrada" division, according to Nario.

They are Minita Chico Nazario (the acting presiding justice), Rodolfo Palattao, Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, Francisco Villaruz, Edilberto Sandoval and Ma. Cristina Cortez-Estrada (no relations to the ex-president).

De Castro is deemed as a shoo-in for the special division since she is part of the original bench of the 3rd division, which handled the Estrada plunder trial when it started April last year.

The need to create a special division arose when the 3rd division began missing two of its three member magistrates in November last year.

The difficulty of achieving a quorum began to bug the division with the retirement of Ricardo Ilarde and later with the forced leave imposed by the Supreme Court on Anacleto Badoy, the division's controversial chair.

The 3rd division has been "borrowing" two justices from the 4th division—Nario and Ferrer—in order to continue hearing the Estrada trial since then.

Estrada lawyers have complained about this ad hoc composition of the 3rd division, and demanded the Estrada case be raffled anew to another division with "permanent" members. ***Volt Contreras***

3 hostages rescued . . .

(From page A1)

policemen and told me that I was being arrested for running over a child," she said.

Bonifacio said she tried to argue with the armed men but they forced her and her companions out of the car. The three women were brought to a wharf where a speedboat was waiting.

The gang demanded a P5-million ransom for the trio's release.

Police broke the case on Tuesday morning when they raided the gang's hideout along Lopez Jaena Street in Digos City.

Lara said one of the five suspects arrested told police where the captives were being held.

Two police battalions, backed by an Army battalion, were mobilized for the rescue operation in Barangay Lapulabao.

Lara said there was an exchange of gunfire when lawmen swooped down on the gang's lair. But superior firepower prompted the kidnappers to scamper away, leaving their three hostages.

Bonifacio, Jayno and Wong were later found hiding in the middle of a sugar plantation. "They sought refuge there during the firefight," Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for regional concerns, told the INQUIRER.

Dureza said the lawmen pursued the kidnappers and arrested seven of them.

Pentagon links

Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, police chief of Southern Mindanao, said the kidnappers were not connected with the notorious Pentagon Group that was behind the kidnapping of several foreigners in Central Mindanao last year.

"They do not have any ideology," he said.

But Matillano said Bonifacio's kidnappers belonged to the same group that snatched Canadian Pierre Belanger at Leling Beach, also in Hagonoy town, last Nov. 3.

Belanger was rescued in Panabo City on Dec. 23 after government troops clashed with the kidnappers. "We are still pursuing remnants of that group," Matillano said.

Earlier, a ranking military officer said members of the Pentagon Group abducted Bonifacio and her companions and could have brought them to Central Mindanao.

Another report indicated that the getaway car used by the kidnappers was found abandoned in Parang, Maguindanao.

But Matillano insisted the Pentagon gang was not involved.

The kidnap gang is being blamed for the series of abductions in Mindanao, including that of Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni in Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur, last November.

Earlier, the Pentagon gang snatched a Chinese engineer working on a government irrigation project in Cotabato and later held hostage four other Chinese nationals during a ransom payoff.

The Pentagon is a remnant of the dreaded Mubarak kidnap group that operated in many areas of Mindanao in the early '90s.

The Mubarak group reportedly broke up following the death of its leader, Abogado Mubarak.

Authorities later learned that Faizal Marohombsar, one of the alleged leaders of the Mubarak group based in Lanao del Sur, regrouped with four other members and resumed their criminal activities.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered a crackdown of kidnap gangs in Mindanao to encourage investments in the impoverished island.

In Western Mindanao, Abu Sayyaf bandits are still holding an American missionary hostage and a Filipino nurse on Basilan island. Rescue operations are going on.

Uncooperative victims hamper campaign

(From page A1)

cases against their recruiters. But once the illegal recruiters agree to return their placement fees, the victims would immediately issue an affidavit of desistance. *Kaliwaan ang nangyayari* (There is an exchange). Of course, the case is dismissed," he said.

Lavin said the NBI could "not prevent victims from doing that. We just tell ourselves, at least we're able to help the bureau in unclogging the docket of pending criminal cases."

But "it is somewhat frustrating that you do not see the ends of justice served," he added.

Lawyer Felicitas Bay, chief of the POEA's Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch, echoed Lavin's disappointment. "There are some who refused to go after the illegal recruiter, saying the suspect was their relative, friend or town mate. There's one case that's already at the fiscal's level. The victim backed out, saying she'd found out they were from the same religious group. Sometimes, you'll really lose your cool. One of our lawyers, Atty. Cleto Edralin, felt really bad because the case he was handling was already in the trial stage. But the complainant said he (would) desist."

"Some victims just want their cases reported. Some victims agree to the filing of the cases. Then we tell them to attend hearings. But they never show up and we don't blame them. I guess the problem is economics. A hungry stomach listens to no law," Bay said.

In one POEA case, victim Rodrigo Repoble declined to file formal charges against the Liahona Insurance Agency (formerly Liahona Insurance and Manpower Assistance Courier), which promised to get him a job as apple picker in Australia in exchange for a P50,000 placement fee.

Seventeen other applicants, all promised non-existent jobs by Liahona, were also planning to withdraw their complaints after the recruitment agency based in Cainta, Rizal, advised them to return and get their money back.

For conducting job recruitment activities without the appropriate license, the POEA ordered the closure of Liahona, one of 27 such firms in 2001.

No funds

In a briefing paper, the POEA noted that the "mandate of POEA as the lead agency in the campaign against the criminal activity is clearly stated . . . However, while there is a mandate, there is no law providing funds to enforce the mandate."

POEA Administrator Rosalinda Baldoz said part of the agency's intensified campaign against illegal recruitment was a massive information campaign.

But she admitted that "we have yet to push the program to the max."

Why?

"Money problems. We have no budget for the purpose," she said.

In 1989, Congress authorized the POEA by way of a special provision in the General Appropriations Act to retain 10 percent of its income for use in its illegal recruitment campaign.

The AIR Fund, as it is commonly called, served the law enforcement, prosecution and information dissemination aspects of the drive.

But the fund was cut off last year, when then President Joseph Estrada "directly vetoed the said item in the GAA," said a POEA report. A Commission on Audit report dated June 29, 2001 confirmed the POEA claim.

"A massive information drive requires the allocation of a great deal of money—for radio and television spots, print materials and other alternative forms of communication," Bay said.

In Davao City, Francis Domingo, head of the POEA's regional center for Mindanao, said he was "disappointed with the campaign here. We're helpless but it's our mandate. But how can you intensify the drive when you have no funds?"

Domingo claimed that since 1998, "we have not received any fund for the campaign. It's a good thing some local government offices are helping us in the campaign."

Last year, the POEA had a total budget allocation of P195.1 million. But Domingo said the Mindanao center's share for maintenance and operating expenses was only P3.9 million. "That used to be P6 million during the Ramos administration," he said.

"If this is the attitude of the POEA, they better close down the Mindanao office. We can't just stay in the office and receive complaints. We're running after illegal recruiters in a region that's a free zone for illegal recruitment syndicates. We're more than neglected," Domingo said.

In June, the center closed down its extension office in General Santos City "just to get its budget and augment the regional center's funding. But they didn't give us GenSan's allocation," Domingo added.

The POEA has no offices in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and the Caraga region (Region 13).

According to COA, between 1996 and 2000, "the POEA's anti-illegal recruitment branch had appropriations of P45 million, of which P42.7 million was released. No funding was appropriated for the program in 2000 since it was directly vetoed by then President Estrada."

"Although no funding was released in 2000, the AIRB was able to sustain its anti-illegal recruitment program," COA reported.

The POEA has appealed to Congress to restore a special provision in the budget law allowing it to use a portion of the agency's income in the drive.

Perennial problem

Some POEA insiders call illegal recruitment a "never-ending problem." That, Baldoz said, "we cannot change."

What is important, Baldoz emphasized, is that "the problem is being addressed by the government."

In one report, the POEA's Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch noted that "the crusade against illegal recruitment was mainly perceived as the mandate of the POEA. However, with the various modes of operations of illegal recruiters, the battle against this crime has become a national endeavor."

"The problem is so immense and its very nature is such that it is not easy for any government agency to address it in a comprehensive manner. This is the reason why the POEA has been making its modest contribution to forging closer cooperation among government agencies, non-governmental organizations and other concerned entities which share the task of battling illegal recruitment."

In a study commissioned by the POEA, the Quezon City-based Community Management Institute cited the agency's linkage with the Philippine National Police as "one of the main strengths of the POEAs's anti-illegal recruitment program."

"The linkage started even before 1989 with the early PNP task forces and has continued to date. It is surprising though that this partnership has continued in spite of the small (budget) allocation being received by this strategy," the CMI said.

According to Baldoz, a 1991 memorandum of agreement with the PNP continues to be in force.

In the past five years, the POEA head said joint PNP-POEA operations had resulted in the arrest of 155 suspected illegal recruiters.

Baldoz also cited the "institutional alliance" between the POEA and the justice department as a "potent factor in the conduct of inquest proceedings as well as on the referrals for preliminary investigation of illegal recruitment cases."

But with the abolition in June 2000 of the Task Force on Illegal Recruitment and 25 other DOJ task forces, she said the conduct of inquest and regular preliminary investigation was now being coordinated with the appropriate local prosecution offices.

The POEA and DOLE co-chair the subcommittee on illegal recruitment of the National Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee. Through the committee, the POEA is "ably supported in its investigative requirements and related intelligence information needs," Baldoz said.

The POEA is also a part of the Anti-Illegal Recruitment Coordinating Councils, an inter-agency body which maps out strategies to improve the campaign against the criminal activity.

In a way, "the problem of illegal recruitment has been perceived as a result of the bureaucratic processes involved in the recruitment and placement of job seekers," according to Bay.

The POEA's processing and documentation requirements "should not pose a threat to applicants as such should be simple but with due regard to compliance with legal procedures," Bay said.

Domingo recalled that "illegal recruiters used to discourage job applicants, particularly those living in remote areas, from dealing with the POEA which they claimed collected higher fees and asked for too many requirements from job applicants. That, of course, is not true."

"Through our information campaign, although limited in scope, the agency is trying very hard to erase that wrong impression," Domingo said.

Lastimoso . . .

(From page A1)

fore Transportation Sec. Pantaleon Alvarez only at 9:30 a.m. yesterday—an hour and a half before the ceremony was to start. But in an interview, he also expressed willingness to assume other positions in government to which the President may assign him, "as long as it is within my area of expertise."

Abenina served as assistant secretary and LTO chief for less than a year, having assumed office after President Macapagal-Arroyo was installed in Malacañang. He filed his resignation last Dec. 20, amid assertions by his subordinates that he had been the victim of political intrigue. Macapagal accepted his resignation on January 4.

Yesterday, the 66-year-old former leader of the radical military reform group, the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan, said he would return to private life and manage his small farm in Rizal.

Political will

Lastimoso, whom Alvarez said was the President's "personal choice" for the job, said he would bring political will to bear on the high-profile office.

"All it takes is political will. If you're lax, it's a sign that the government is not functioning," he said in an interview.

He said that based on public perception of the LTO, his priorities would be to rid the LTO of fixers and make the traffic situation better nationwide.

"Smoke-belching, colorum vehicles and erring drivers—I would be focusing on those (issues) that already have existing laws as basis," he said.

At the ceremony, he summarized his policy in three words: "continuity, consistency and credibility."

"I find my assumption of office doubly difficult because I am succeeding a very capable man," Lastimoso said. "General Abenina has left behind so many good plans and projects that I will definitely find hard to duplicate," he added.

Abenina urged Lastimoso, whom he described as "a worthy successor and a good friend," to continue the reforms he had started. "There is nothing to be done today but to implement what has been started," Abenina said. "Go on improving at the risk of pain, sorrow, life and safety."

For his part, Lastimoso welcomed any advice—solicited or otherwise—that Abenina may want to give him in preparation for his new job.

In the interview, Lastimoso said weeding out the LTO personnel involved in corrupt practices would be one of his top priorities.

Given his police orientation, Lastimoso said he would be very meticulous in flushing out LTO insiders who are in cahoots with fixers. Once an employee's involvement is confirmed, he said he would not hesitate to remove them from their post.

"You just need to have political will. If you want to remove them, you can remove them. Just (keep a watchful eye) on them everyday—make the person directly involved accountable. Replace them if they can't do their jobs," he said.

Teary-eyed

A teary-eyed Abenina, who took part in several coup attempts in the 1980s and headed the RAM panel during peace talks in the 1990s, waxed poetic when he bade goodbye to an also emotional crowd composed mostly of LTO officials and employees.

"I walked into this hall alone. I will also leave alone, with my feet planted squarely on the floor," he said.

"I will leave without any feeling of sadness, but with the full satisfaction that I have done my job well . . . that I faced every trouble that came my way."

Abenina said he considered as among his greatest accomplishments the computerization of the agency, the streamlining of procedures and the elimination of fixers at the LTO.

LTO employees expressed regret that Abenina was stepping down from office. Marilyn Carreon, an LTO statistician, said she was saddened over Abenina's "untimely" resignation.

Carreon, who was among those who shed tears during the turnover ceremony, said that Abenina was "well-loved" by the employees because he was "a good disciplinarian."

"Only those who have illegal activities are happy that Gen. Abenina is going away," she said.

She said she welcomed Lastimoso's appointment, but at the same time challenged him "to live up to the expectations, not only of the public, but also of the national government."

5TH RP INT'L GOLF

JR keys pacesetting play with ace

THE PHILIPPINES' JR Tanpinco scored a hole-in-one on his way to a 75 yesterday to start his defense of the boys' Special Division title on a high note in the fifth Philippine International Junior Golf Championship.

Tanpinco, 20, and a veteran internationalist, made his second career ace on the par-3, 148-yard eighth of Wack Wack East.

That gave him five under at that stage. But he had an adventurous back nine that included a triple bogey and a double bogey after sending his ball twice into the water.

That enabled Thailand's Tepphatud Sanawong to catch Tanpinco at the top and sent the race for the division title a battle to the finish in the event organized by the Philippine Junior Golf Federation headed by Edgardo "Boy" Cantada and hosted by Wack Wack led by president Ben Abalos.

If Tanpinco and Sanawong were on top of the division limited to players who are 18-21 years old, Marvin Luis Mendoza and Felicia Mikhaela Solano of the Philippines were the first winners.

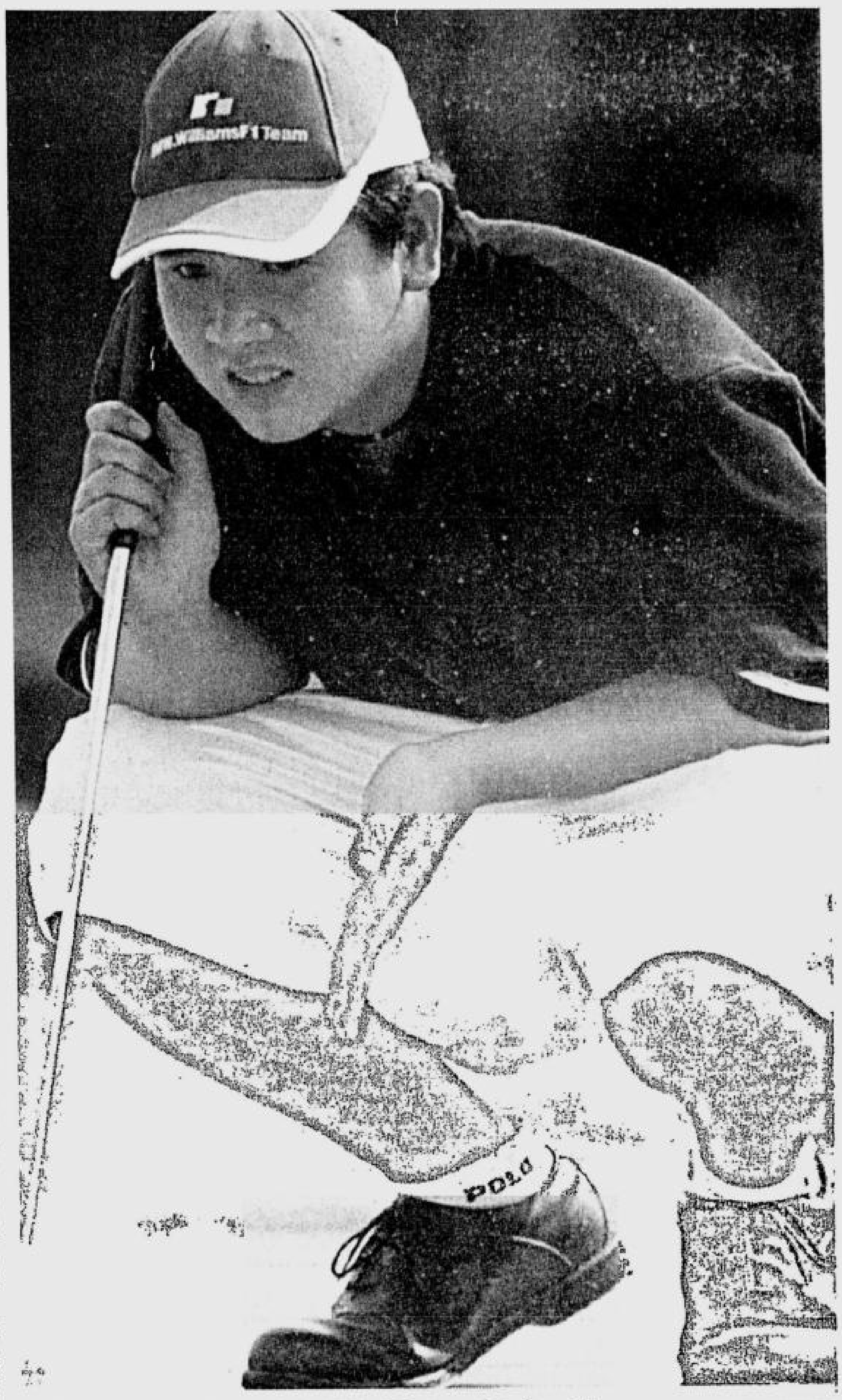
Mendoza came up with a 93 to top the boys' beginners division while Solano shot 105 to rule the girls' beginners division.

The four are among the 92 players from eight countries competing in the event sponsored by Cebu Pacific, Herma Group of Companies, Milo and Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corporation.

The other backers are Airlift Asiza, All Seasons Manpower Int'l Services Inc., Bingo Bonanza, CRC Concrete Mix Corp., Duty Free Philippines Fiesta Mall, Eaglecor Inc., Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Foren Corp., Gilberto Duavit, Junior Golf Parents;

Magsaysay Maritime Corp., Makati Foundry Inc., Mitsubishi Motors, Morelia Tours, Outback Steakhouse, Philippine Flour Mills, Pioneer Insurance, Takanobu Taira, Toyota Otis, Sysu International, Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, Triplex Tents, Sen. Blas Ople, Rep. Willie Villarama and Gourmet's Café.

Vyen Jugo Villanueva scored a 96 to place second in the boys' beginners' division while Lucio Tan III, the Taipan's grandson, settled for third after shooting 110. Vivienne Velasquez came up with 109 to capture second place in the girls' beginners division.



JR Tanpinco: Aces No. 8 of Wack Wack East en route to a 75. ROMY HOMILLADA

Thai ousts top seed

SYDNEY, Australia—Paradorn Srichaphan continued his impressive roll with a 64-minute, straight sets demolition Tuesday of top-seeded Sebastien Grosjean took at the adidas International.

The 22-year-old Paradorn clinched the 6-3, 6-4 first-round win with an ace on his first match point, eliminating the Frenchman who'd capped 2001 by reaching the final at the season-ending Masters Cup in Sydney and winning a Davis Cup title with France in Melbourne.

Ranked No. 112 in the ATP's 2001 Champions Race, Paradorn dropped to his knees and kissed center court after beating Grosjean, who was No. 6 in the last year-end rankings.

Paradorn qualified for the Sydney event by reaching his maiden tour final last week at the TATA Open in Madras, India, where he lost in straight sets to top-seeded Guillermo Canas of Argentina.

But he'd beaten a string of seeded players to reach the Madras decider, including No. 5 Max Mirnyi, No. 2 Thomas Johansson in the quarterfinal and No. 4 Andre Pavel in the semis.

Paradorn's biggest previous win was against Magnus Norman at Singapore in 1999, when the Swede was ranked No. 3.

Last December he earned a wild card for next week's Australian Open by winning the Asian Championship decider against top seed Lee Hyung-taik at Hong Kong last month.

Injured Davenport withdraws

LOS ANGELES — Top-ranked American Lindsay Davenport will miss the Australian Open because of a right knee injury that might require surgery.

"Lindsay's doctor has determined she has cartilage damage in her right knee," Davenport's agent, Tony Godsick of IMG, said Monday from Miami, Florida. "They're exploring the best ways to solve the problem, which might include surgery. We'll know more in the next 48 hours."

Davenport withdrew Friday from this week's Adidas International tournament in Sydney, a tuneup for the Australian Open. The year's first Grand Slam tournament starts Jan. 14, in Melbourne.

The 25-year-old Davenport was injured at the season-ending Sanex Championships in Munich, Germany, on Nov. 3. She pulled out of the final there, ending a 15-match winning streak in which she won three straight tournaments. *AP*

Tiger tames New Zealand

WOODS

PARAPARAUMU BEACH, New Zealand —Tiger Woods pulled out a 4-iron and laced it sweetly about 190 meters down the 10th hole at Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club.

Rapturous applause from a gallery of thousands greeted that shot and his next, a half-wedge from 100 meters that hit the green, spun left and stopped six feet from the hole.

Walking to the green, surrounded by 10 to 12 uniformed and plainclothes police, Woods drew a few gasps from the increasing crowd when he failed to stroke the birdie putt properly and then hit two balls to the far end of the green.

Confusing for some, but it was, after all, only Tuesday—a practice day at the New Zealand Open.

Four hours after flying into New Zealand for his first trip here and ignoring security fears over a cyanide threat against the tournament mailed to the U.S. Embassy in nearby Wellington, Woods was out doing what he does best - taking his international golf road show to his 16th country.

Bantering with the crowd and joking with his caddie Steve Williams, who grew up in New Zealand around the Paraparaumu course, Woods seemed oblivious to the increased security. *AP*

'Ethics cannot be dictated upon'

THE SPORTING public may not be aware of it but in keeping with a policy of the International Olympic Committee, the local Olympic body has empowered the Ethics Commission to function independently (from it) since last year.

This was revealed yesterday by Gus B. Villanueva, Philippine Olympic Committee media officer, to allay fears that the POC leadership is using the (Ethics) body to harass its critics.

Rene R. Cruz, a retired police general and former POC president, was named Ethics Commission chairman with IOC representative to the Philippines Francisco Elizalde, De La Salle University president Bro. Rolando Dizon and Wushu Federation of the Philippines honorary lifetime president Francis Chan as members.

"The Ethics Commission has broad functions. It's a powerful body and it should not be ignored. This (Ethics) body cannot be dictated upon by anyone, including POC officials. Its recommendations or findings on cases brought before it can be the bases of sanctions or penalties to be imposed by the POC Executive Board," Villanueva explained.

According to the POC spokesman, every NSA was furnished a copy of the resolution detailing the amended guidelines of the Ethics Commission, which, among others, recognize its independence and responsibility separate from the POC Executive Board.

"The POC wants this body to serve as a 'watchdog' that would help maintain the Olympic body's integrity as an institution and stability as the umbrella organization of all NSAs (national sports associations)," said Villanueva.

Among the cases it may look into are conviction involving crimes of moral turpitude, charges of involvement in heinous crimes, infringement of IOC and/or POC Charter, acts against POC and/or IOC authority and acts unbecoming a member of the POC and/or IOC family.

The Ethics Commission is authorized to issue warnings, reprimands, condemnation and any other similar censure, and if it deems fit, inform the corresponding IF (international federation). The findings/recommendations may be endorsed to the Executive Board and/or General Assembly for further sanctions.

Paragua earns GM result in Spain

TEENAGE chess sensation international master Mark Paragua, 17, obtained his first grandmaster result when he scored 7.5 points out of a possible 9 in the recently concluded 1st Festival International De Ajedrez GEMA in Mondariz Balneario, Vigo, Pontevedra, Spain.

Paragua tied for first with top seed Russian GM Oleg Korneeve in the 93-player field. His 7 wins, 1 loss and 1 draw netted him a performance rating of 2623 which was more than enough for the GM norm.

International Chess Federation (FIDE) rules stipulate that a player need to have a minimum performance rating of 2600 in a tournament with at least 5 titled players, including at least 2 GMs, to get a GM result.

Paragua, whose campaign is supported by PIATCO, Belgosa Media Systems, Philippine Tourism Authority, Philippine Sports Commission and the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, was the only player who earned a GM result.

Paragua convincingly beat his last three opponents: Portuguese IM Sergio Rocha, Spanish GM Zenon Franco and Ukrainian GM Rusian Pogorelov. He drew with Korneev and his only loss came at the hands of Armenian GM Karen Movsziszian in the sixth round.

True to his style of aggressive play, the young Paragua chose sharp, complex and tactical systems in the opening to win most of his games.

"Mark employed some home brewed opening preparation with the black pieces especially against Franco and Pogorelov," his father said in an e-mail to the Active Chess Center of Asia (ACCA) in Makati City.

In the middle game from an English opening against Franco, Paragua unleashed a bold and forceful combination beginning with 22...Ne4 which resulted in an advantageous endgame, creating an unstoppable passed pawn in the a-file to secure the win.

Artists chessfest Jan. 19 at Odette's

THE PHILIPPINE Artists Chess Championship announced yesterday it will hold its annual invitational tournament on Jan 19 at 8 a.m. at the Heritage House, 43 Hillside Loop, Blueridge, Quezon City.

The tournament is open to active artists, writers, musicians, painters, sculptors, architects, dancers, actors and film makers.

Trophies specially designed by well-known sculptor Rey Paz Contreras and cash prizes await the winners. Sportswriter Joey Villar of the Philippine Star is the defending champion. Tournament director is Nestor Mata. For details, call Odette Alcantara at tel. 647-1181.

Marave 'Karter of the Year'

"NO one ever gets tired of winning," said Pepon Marave, the ace driver of the Demvels Racing Team, after bagging the Formula A class title and clinching his third national karting crown at the finals of the 2001 Shell Super Kart Series.

Marave won the National Karter of the Year titles in 1994 and 1995.

On Jan. 11, Marave will be honored by the Philippine Sportswriters Association for his exemplary achievements in local karting in 2001.

This will be his second PSA award after winning it in 1995.

At 36, Marave's driving had evolved into an art form.

Years of dedication and hard work honed Marave into being a master kartsman.

"Without the logistical support from Demvels Enterprises and Shell, I wouldn't have been champion," said Marave.

With over a hundred race wins to his name, including driver of the year titles in 1996, 1998 and 1999, Marave has emerged as one of the Philippines' winningest single-seater driver the past decade.

Marave, meanwhile, announced his one year sabbatical from karting competitions in order to concentrate on his Formula 3 campaign in the year 2002 under the Shell Racing Team banner. The 2002 Asian Formula 3 series will be a seven leg series with races to be held in the Philippines, China, Malaysia, Taiwan and Korea.

MILO BEST CHAMPS

Ateneo de Manila cagers display their trophy after winning the Milo BEST SBP (Small Basketeers) national title recently. Among those in picture are Milo sports executive Jackby Jaime, BEST Center president Nic Jorge, PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino, Ilocos Sur Governor DV Savellano, Junjun Capistrano, coach Jay Salvador, assistant coach Rainier Sison and players Eduardo Aytona, Kevin Maderal, Jose Sollano, Ivan Enriquez, John Dumrique, Kevin John Gamboa, Carlos Reyes, Carlo Balmaceda, Martin Buenconsejo, Paul Nicolo Claustro, Carlo de Dios, Lorenzo Katipunan, Mernard Padernal, Robert Quiogue and Alex Rivera.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1989, John Rey Tiangco beat Michael Macaraeg, 6-3, 6-3, to snare the boys' 18-and-under crown in the second Andrada Cup national age group tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Also today in 1993, Carmelette Villaroman fired a six-over 78 to score a three-stroke victory over Joann Hardwick in the 31st Philippine Ladies Amateur Open golf championship at the Manila Golf and Country Club.

Mega golfest

THE MEGA Ladies Golf Cup will be held next month. Deadline of submission of entries is on Feb. 8. Call 6312859 for details.

Victims need Jaworski, Pagcor help

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE SAD events of the past revived once more the irreparable damage caused by toxic wastes left by the Americans in their former military bases in Subic and Clark. In Subic, 48-year-old half Aeta Ciriaco Manzano, who was exposed to the deadly contaminants after working as a utility man at the Naval Magazine of Subic Naval Base, died of cancer last Dec. 31. Manzano was in charge of cleaning up garbage at NavMag where ammunition and firearms were stored and tested. Up to this day, however, hazardous waste has remained uncleaned in the area, said Myrla Baldonado, executive director of People's Task Force of Bases Clean-Up.

"Manzano's death serves as a grim reminder that we cannot just go on taking for granted the need for the United States government to clean up Clark and Subic bases and compensate the Filipino people for the damages they caused," said Baldonado.

And at Clark, there have been at least 80 deaths resulting from drinking contaminated water. More deaths are expected to occur in the next few years so much so that help is badly needed right now before the problem becomes incurable.

"In the last seven years," Baldonado said, "the task force has facilitated the treatment of over a hundred children through the help of various individuals, legislators (Senators Loren Legarda Leviste and Sergio Osmeña III to mention a few) and government agencies awash with cash such as the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. However, I gathered that Pagcor's monthly support of P50,000 was stopped late last year for reasons unbeknownst to many. For the sake of the innocent children, Pagcor top honcho Efraim Genuino should do something about helping these unfortunate victims. Please *'lang po, tulungan natin sila.*

In the Senate, I am happy to learn that former basketball legend and now Sen. Robert Jaworski, who chairs the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, has conducted an inquiry into the presence of toxic and hazardous wastes in the former military installations of Subic and Clark and filed Committee Report 237 reinforcing the Philippine claim of US liability for the cleaning up of such installations in the country. The people salute him for that, hoping that he ultimately succeeds in his legislative efforts to protect and preserve the environment and natural resources."

* * *

PWU IN SPORTS. There are many students from the Philippine Women's University who made their contributions to Philippine sports. Among them:

Cristina Ramos, feisty former president of the Philippine Olympic Committee who donned PWU colors in volleyball, the WNCAA champions in 1975: Bong Coo, a bowling Hall of Famer who won the coveted World Cup; noted singer Ivy Violan and beauty queens Agnes Rustia, Evangeline Reyes and Evangeline Pascual, who all played basketball for their alma mater, Carolina "Chula" Ramos Sambrano, Cristy's sister who competed in volleyball. Also, PWU produced swimmer Luz Abad Santos, sister of Amanda Abad Santos-Madrigal who carried the colors in the 10th Far Eastern Games hosted by Manila in 1934; basketball player Josefa Jara Martinez, who founded the Philippine School of Social Work, a school under PWU. She was the mother of former first lady Amelita Ramos, PWU's champion badminton player and swimmer; Violeta Vendete Dediones, track and field athlete who also coached PWU's swimming team and her daughter Marie Bediones, captain of the school's volleyball national champion team in 1973-77; swimmer Estela Lizada and Marie de Villa, skipper of the high school volleyball team. She is a niece of former Executive Secretary and Defense Secretary Renato de Villa.

* * *

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214.

Smith tops Hall candidates

NEW YORK —Ozzie Smith finds out Tuesday whether he will backflip into the Baseball Hall of Fame on the first ballot. The Wizard of Oz, a 15-time All-Star who set the example of how shortstop should be played, heads the list of candidates for induction to the Hall next summer. Gary Carter, Jim Rice, Bruce Sutter and Rich Gossage top the holdovers from last year, when Kirby Puckett and Dave Winfield were elected on the first try. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Tight security in Olympics

SALT LAKE CITY —Olympic athletes will have a place close to home to take their aches and pains during the Winter Games. The University of Utah has transformed its campus student housing into the Olympic athletes' village. Security will be tight, with strict credential checks and perimeter patrols by state and federal law enforcement. But once inside, the 3,500 athletes, coaches and team officials will have most of the comforts of home. *AP*

FedEx offers Derick ₱7.2M

Coach's manager wants ₱10M plus incentives

BY ROY LUARCA

AIRFREIGHT 2100-FEDEX and Derick Pumaren made offers to each other yesterday in a bid to "save" Pumaren's job as coach of the PBA's newest member.

Lito Alvarez, FedEx president, yesterday said he had talked to Mike Gonzales, Pumaren's manager, about Pumaren's old contract with Tanduay.

Alvarez said FedEx was willing to give Pumaren P7.2 million spread over three years, but Gonzales bargained for P10 million plus other incentives.

If Alvarez and Gonzales do not come to terms, Pumaren will have to decide on whether or not to accept FedEx's offer when he arrives from Los Angeles tomorrow.

"At least we have initial talking points," said Alvarez. "We're willing to give him (Pumaren) a chance to form the team."

Initially, FedEx had balked on getting the services of Pumaren, but decided to give him the chance to mould the team rather than buy out his remaining contract with Tanduay.

Alvarez said he and FedEx chair Bert Lina have a young, fast team in mind and that only Jeffrey Cariaso and Dindo Pumaren, Derick's younger brother, may be accommodated.

"Jeff and Dindo may fit into our system. But if Derick will insist on keeping players who won't jive with the kind of team we are planning, we may be forced to just buy out his contract," said Alvarez.

Alvarez said that even if Pumaren is to be retained, he will only be allowed to bring in one assistant coach.

Pumaren, who gave Sunkist the All-Filipino and Commissioner's Cup titles in 1995, replaced Alfrancis Chua last year, but failed to steer Tanduay to the semifinals of the last three conferences.

Meanwhile, Lordy Tugade signed a new two-year contract worth nearly P4 million with Red Bull.

Hawkins, Locsin put on trading block

BY JUNE NAVARRO

VETERANS Rene Hawkins and Noli Locsin must find a new team before the first conference of the 2002 PBA season begins.

That's because the Lina Group of Companies, the newest squad in the league, has put Hawkins and Locsin on the trading block, a source told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Hawkins and Locsin were the first players who got the ax from the Bert Lina-owned firm less than a week after the PBA Board of Governors approved the purchase of its PBA franchise from Tanduay.

With the sale, the LGC thus absorbed the players and the coaching staff of Tanduay including their contracts.

Hawkins, a 6-foot-3 veteran forward, and the 30-year-old Locsin are on the second year of their four-year pact which pays them almost P400,000 a month.

Lito Alvarez, LGC president and chief operating officer, had earlier said that they were not keen on keeping Hawkins and Locsin as they were bent on forming a running team.

Alvarez said playmaker Dindo Pumaren, Jeffrey Cariaso and Wynne Arboleda would most likely make the team. The fate of the rest of the players like Freddie Abuda, Jason Webb and Zaldy Realubit, however, have yet to be finalized.

As this developed, LGC chair Bert Lina said they would ask for the help of the Memphis Grizzlies of the National Basketball Association on the acquisition of imports in the PBA for the second conference.

Meanwhile, Talk N Text has added American coach Bill Bayno of the Phoenix squad in the American Basketball Association to its growing list of prospective coaches.

A source said that the 40-year-old Bayno, who had a coaching stint at the University of Las Vegas-Nevada (UNLV) for six seasons (1995-2001), is set to arrive on Saturday for an interview with the Phone Pals' management.

JORDAN and wife, Juanita, in happier times. AP FILE PHOTO

Jordan's wife files for divorce

CHICAGO — Michael Jordan's wife has filed for divorce, seeking to dissolve her 12-year marriage to the world's most famous basketball player, the Chicago Tribune reported on its Web site Monday night.

In a petition filed Friday in circuit court in Waukegan, Illinois, Juanita Jordan cited "irreconcilable differences" in seeking a dissolution of her marriage to Jordan.

She seeks permanent custody of the couple's three children, the 2,323-square-meter (25,000-square-foot) "marital residence" in Highland Park and half the couple's property.

The petition describes Jordan as "a well and able-bodied man who is capable of making suitable provisions for the support and maintenance of the Petitioner and for the support and education of the parties' children in a style commensurate with that enjoyed by the parties during marriage."

Jordan, who was paid more than $30 million in his final season with the Bulls, is one of the world's richest athletes. The petition listed the couple as J. Vanoy Jordan and M. Jeff Jordan.

"It is the parties' hope that the media respect the family's need and desire for privacy in this painful matter," Juanita Jordan's lawyer, Don Schiller, told the Tribune.

The six-page petition says irreconcilable differences have caused "the irretrievable breakdown" of Mrs. Jordan's marriage to the basketball superstar and that future attempts at reconciliation "would be impractical and not in the best interests of the family."

The couple was married Sept. 2, 1989, in Las Vegas. Their children are Jeffrey, 13, Marques, 11, and Jasmine, 9.

Jordan cited a desire to spend more time with his family when he retired from the Bulls the first time in October 1994 and again in January 1999.

He maintained his Chicago-area residence when he returned to basketball as a front-office executive with the Washington Wizards last season, but his decision to resume his playing career has kept him in Washington full-time.

He plays at home Tuesday night against the Los Angeles Clippers. *AP*

Iverson posts 1st triple double

PHILADELPHIA —Allen Iverson had 30 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for his first career triple-double Monday, leading the Philadelphia 76ers to a 116-92 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

The defending Eastern Conference champions have won three of their last four games after losing 13 of 18.

Quentin Richardson scored 21 and Corey Maggette added 16 for Los Angeles, which had won three of four, including two in succession.

The Sixers never trailed after the first basket, had runs of 14-4 in the first quarter, 19-5 in the second and opened a 22-point lead in the third.

Matt Harpring had 19 points and 12 rebounds, Dikembe Mutombo had 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Aaron McKie added 14 points for the Sixers, who shot 51.6 percent.

Complete results

Charlotte 94, Denver 80; Portland 98, Cleveland 72; Philadelphia 116, L.A. Clippers 92; Orlando 98, Boston 87; Minnesota 109, Detroit 93; Seattle 100, Chicago 88; San Antonio 90, New York 79. AP

Shark gets back at Ana; Kutitap edges ICTSI

BY DENNIS U. EROA

DEFENDING champion Shark Energy Drink outplayed Ana Freezers, 84-67, in a roller-coaster game in a PBL Challenge Cup game marked by four technical fouls and a terrible fall by a former UAAP standout yesterday at the Makati Coliseum.

With a full-court, trapping and man-to-man defense shutting the door for Ana's fastbreaking game, Shark dictated the tempo of the match en route to its eighth win in 12 outings.

In the second game, Kutitap Toothpaste edged ICTSI-La Salle, 83-80, leaving the Archers and the Energy Drink Kings tied for the lead. The second game wasn't free of controversy as the referees failed to award Mike Cortez three charities which could have tied the ballgame.

The six-foot Cortez, who committed three errors in the dying minutes, had the chance to atone for his mistake as he attempted for a buzzer-beating three-pointer and was clearly fouled by Rency Bajar.

Owing to its importance, the match wasn't lacking in drama and excitement. Gunner Roland Pascual, obviously frustrated with Gerald Ortega's tight guarding, was slapped a technical foul for second motion in the fourth quarter. The referees also whistled the Ana bench for a technical for continuously protesting their calls.

Shark also did not escape the referees' attention. Slotman Rysal Castro was given a technical for delaying the match, while assistant coach Boy Galabin took another for berating the referees.

"Ana did not give up, but we wanted to start the year with a bang," said Shark coach Leo Austria. "We were embarrassed in the first round and we wanted to get even."

Shark lost to Ana in overtime, 72-67, last Nov. 8.

While expressing unhappiness over the calls, coach Rudy Mendoza said Ana's chances got hurt by the absence of 6-foot-5 center Ariel de Castro, who dislocated his left elbow following a bad fall while trying to stop Irvin Sotto in the third quarter and Shark ahead, 54-48.

SHARK 84—Castro 14, Tolomia 12, Basilides 11, Malabanan 10, Sotto 8, Cole 8, Ybañez 7, Junio 4, Rodriguez 2, Caceres 2, Balares 2, Robinson 0, Garcia 0.

ANA 67—Mendoza D. 21, Mendoza 11, Pascual 8, Tubid 7, Vilar 6, Artadi 4, Capus 4, Oreta 3, De Castro 2, Flores 1.

Quarters: 17-16, 39-31, 54-48, 84-67.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA - LA Lakers vs Detroit Pistons at 9 a.m. (r – 4:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.) on ESPN

US NCAA - Michigan State vs Indiana at 1 p.m., Miami vs St. John's at midnight, Mississippi State vs Arkansas tomorrow at 2:30 p.m. on ESPN

POOL: World Pool League 2001 at 8 a.m. and 12 noon (r) on ESPN

Rack 'Em Up - Mosconi Cup Finals at 7 p.m. on ESPN

GOLF: This is the PGA Tour at 4 p.m. on Star Sports

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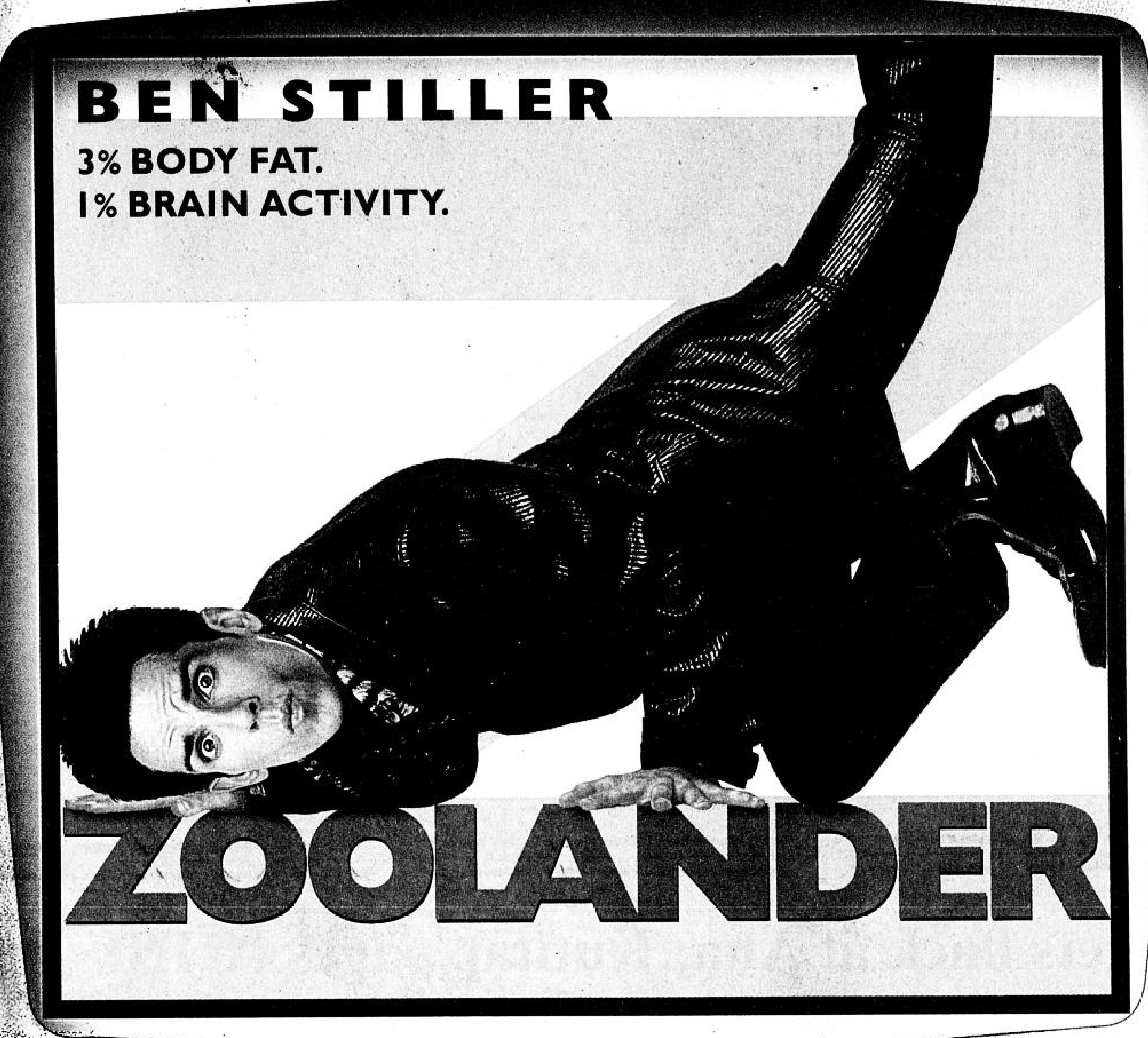
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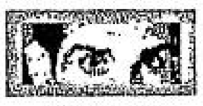
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Manila dad wants to outlaw 'bathing'

LUCIANO "Lou" Veloso, the comedian-turned-councilor of Manila's 6th district, now wants to ban people from taking a bath—in the Pasig River, that is. He said there have been far too many incidents of children drowning in the murky river, which is why he is proposing the "no-bathing" ordinance. *Jerome Aning*

Blood found in taxi not Nida's, NBI says

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE BLOODSTAINS found in the controversial taxi, which was said to have transported three women linked to the Nida Blanca murder, did not belong to the actress, according to officials of the National Bureau of Investigation.

But the bureau is still continuing with their investigation of the three women that took the taxi not to Blanca's home in White Plains, but to the house of a government official, which is a few meters away from the actress' residence.

That fateful ride took place on the morning the actress was killed, said lawyer Ricardo Diaz, NBI Interpol chief and spokesperson for the Blanca investigation.

"We still believe that they are connected to the killing," Diaz said.

The NBI is also pursuing another lead: agents learned that there was "heavy phone traffic" between two of Blanca's acquaintances during the "crucial time" the actress was reported missing.

Diaz said the bureau learned of the "abnormal" volume of phone calls when agents got hold of the two persons' cellular phone bills.

Diaz said there were a lot of cell phone calls between "9 p.m. up to the early morning (of Nov. 7)."

Diaz yesterday said the results of the bureau's DNA tests on the stains showed that the blood did not belong to the actress.

"The DNA test shows that it's a different blood grouping," Diaz said. "It is not animal's blood, but it is also not Nida's."

Ruel de Lumen, the driver of the Agip taxi, a red Toyota Corolla (PVK 714), told investigators that his taxi was stained with blood when a woman gave birth inside his cab in December. Blanca was killed on the first week of November, Diaz said.

De Lumen, 31, a native of Batangas, said his three female passengers were carrying plastic shopping bags when they flagged him down at Robinsons Galleria.

He described the women as aged 40, 35, and 16.

De Lumen told the NBI that the three got off at a government official's house a few meters away from the actress' home about 2 a.m. on Nov. 7.

Diaz said the White Plains security logbook showed that the taxi went to 28 Nathan Street, but NBI agents learned that the taxi "stopped a few meters away" from Blanca's home.

"The driver said he left when one of the women rang the (gate's) buzzer," Diaz said. "We know the identity of the (house owner), who is a known personality, and we also have the sketches of the three women."

An NBI source said on Monday that one of the women was lesbian-looking, the other looked like a housemaid, and the third was young, about 16 years old. The source said the three women allegedly flagged down a taxi near the Atlanta Centre Building in San Juan, where Blanca's body was later discovered.

Diaz said the taxi driver had a hard time recalling the three women's features. But he added that the driver took the NBI's lie detector test and passed it.

Meanwhile, Diaz branded as "childish" the lawyers of Nida's husband Rod Strunk. He said the lawyers kept changing their minds in advising their client on how to proceed with the polygraph test at the bureau.

"They're so childish," Diaz said.

Strunk's lawyers earlier set conditions for their client and insisted on the absence of media during the scheduled lie detector test.

Diaz said the NBI is amenable to that, but Strunk's lawyers allegedly changed after Diaz told the press Monday that Strunk had agreed to undergo the exam.

Quiapo swims anew in sea of devotees

WESTERN Police District officials expect around 200,000 Catholic faithful to descend on Quiapo today for the Feast of the Black Nazarene.

Supt. Elmer Jamias, WPD traffic section chief, said police will reroute the traffic in Quiapo today to keep the order during the celebration.

He said public buses going to Quiapo from Ayala Bridge by way of C. Palanca should go straight to P. Casal, turn right on Nepomuceno Street, right at Padilla, left on P. Casal, and then back to Ayala bridge.

Public utility vehicles bound for Legarda Street, R. Hidalgo and C. Palanca, should make a U-turn at the intersection of San Rafael and Legarda. They should then go back to their point of origin or turn right at San Rafael, left at Nepomuceno, and left at Legarda.

Those coming from S.H. Loyola via Bilibid Viejo and R. Hidalgo should turn left at CM Recto and drive toward Legarda Street.

Northbound motorists going to Caloocan by way of MacArthur Bridge should go straight to Plaza Sta. Cruz toward Dasmariñas Street.

Southbound vehicles on Rizal Avenue should turn right on Ronquillo Street toward Plaza Sta. Cruz and go to Plaza Lacson. They should then cross MacArthur Bridge.

Vehicles bound for "Quiapo Ilalim" via Quezon Boulevard should go straight and cross Quezon Bridge, then make a U-turn at Palacio and P. Burgos. Jamias said the traffic rerouting will take effect at 8 a.m. today. *Philip Tubeza*

Unwed mom in suicide try

AN UNWED mother who is a student at a Manila university tried to take her own life inside her condominium unit in Makati City.

The woman a 23-year-old resident of Park Square Condominium, Ayala Center and a Business Management student, is now recovering at the Makati Medical Center, said PO3 Jovenal Barbosa of the Makati City Police.

The woman went to the house of her former live-in partner and came home depressed, police said. One of the maids later saw the victim unconscious inside her room at 1:40 p.m. and rushed her to the hospital.

Police later learned the parents of the victim had scolded her when they found out she went to the house of her former partner. *Alcuin Papa*

Makati bankers to pass on tax burden to people

By Alcuin Papa

BANKERS and businessmen based in Makati City said they will be forced to pass on to their customers any increases in business tax as proposed by the city council.

Leonilo Coronel, executive director of the Bankers Association of the Philippines, said the tax hike is a "source of concern" for bankers.

"They (Makati officials) should rethink that policy because it will have to be passed on to the customers," Coronel said.

The BAP has expressed its opposition to the Makati City Council's proposed ordinance to increase taxes by, at most, three percent.

Coronel pointed out the national government and the Central Bank of the Philippines have been working to keep interest rates low.

"But what the local government wants to do is to upset that (by raising business taxes)," Coronel added. "(Raising the taxes) will be like killing the goose that lays the golden egg; and it's not only banks but other businesses as well."

Coronel also said if there is going to be an increase in taxes, the banks may be forced to move their operations to other cities. This is already being considered as a strong "alternative," Coronel said.

But Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay clarified that the council has deferred any increases in business taxes pending the holding of more public hearings on the matter. Last year, the Makati council passed an ordinance raising real estate taxes in the city.

Time to ask: Who'll replace Ron Jacobs?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

WHEN well-informed sports people gather years from now to pick the finest coach to have handled the Philippine national basketball team, Ron Jacobs' name will undoubtedly be tossed in.

With what he had won for the Philippines, Jacobs should be a top candidate.

But, sorry, I'm not voting for Jacobs.

My vote for "best ever tactician" goes to the venerable Herminio Silva, mentor of the 1954 Philippine team that won the bronze medal in the World Basketball Championship in Rio de Janeiro.

Listen. My elders told me that Silva had helped hasten and revolutionize the game of basketball.

The shot clock, they said, had to be hurriedly introduced after Silva successfully ordered a strict ball freeze for almost an entire half. This came in the Philippines game against Nationalist China after the Filipinos had erected what looked like a shaky lead.

Fans nearly fell asleep as Filipino players on the floor followed Silva: No single attempt, stay firm, just eat the game clock by tossing the ball around.

When the gunshot sounded—the end-game buzzer had yet to be introduced—fans opened their eyes with the Philippines retaining the Asian championship— without having had to shoot for a single extra basket.

* * *

I don't know if Ron Jacobs, who has yet to regain full consciousness after suffering what looked like a massive stroke, has ever heard of Herr Silva.

But I have one big wish for Mr. Jacobs: That he doesn't leave the St. Luke's Hospital limping and leaning on a cane like the late genius Mr. Silva, himself victimized by a stroke.

Coach Ron will be in my prayers when the Black Nazarene of Quiapo goes out on a tumultuous feast day procession around the Quiapo District starting this afternoon.

We are one with the PBA in praying for the swift recovery of the man designated to lead the ambitious campaign to regain the Asian Games basketball crown last held by the Philippines in 1962.

Truth is nobody has an exact idea when coach Ron would be back on his feet.

Look, after newsmen and the general public were kept in the dark on the exact state of Jacobs' poor health, our sports editor was forced to pick up his pipe and put on his Sherlock Holmes bonnet.

And last Saturday, Al Mendoza, moving in gingerly, outsmarted his junior reporter when he quietly and successfully dug his way to the truth.

* * *

Intubated, Al was supposedly told by one of his doctor friends who had been privy to coach Ron's condition. Specifying, Al said that meant "a tube remains inserted in his larynx."

Another physician, Al said, added that Jacobs "has no response, except when you inflict pain, like pinching him. But there's not even an eye opening." In short, comatose.

But that's not the saddest part. The truly tragic part of the Al Mendoza Report is the one which said Jacobs, according to the doctors, cannot coach anymore—even if he recovered from the stroke.

Well, as far as the PBA is concerned, Jacobs is still the national basketball team coach.

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino deserves praise for sticking to his principles by retaining Jacobs despite what had befallen the legendary mentor.

Who knows, maybe Jun B. is just waiting for the chance to be able to ask Jacobs if he could still handle the job.

How and when that chance would come—considering the health of Jacobs— is, of course, hard to tell.

The PBA would wait indefinitely? Definitely not.

* * *

Mr. Bernardino happens to be a very practical person.

This is the exact reason he has allowed San Miguel mentor Jong Uichico to function as interim RP team coach.

Well, well, it would've been a great relief for both Bernardino and Uichico if Jacobs had left a blueprint for the RP team campaign in this year's Asian Games in Pusan.

Knowing Jacobs, he must've been in the process of perfecting the plan for the championship mission. Unfortunately, he was beaten to the deadline by that specter of a stroke.

In the end comes the bigger puzzle: Jong Uichico himself.

Ever the honest fellow, Uichico confessed on Monday that he had to second-guess choices in order to fill slots in the RP team tryout pool.

Now, if Uichico ends up handling the RP national basketball team, would the PBA be content on the multi-titled fellow just second-guessing Jacobs battle plans?

Or would the PBA consider other calibered coaches to try and lead us to the Asian basketball dreamland?

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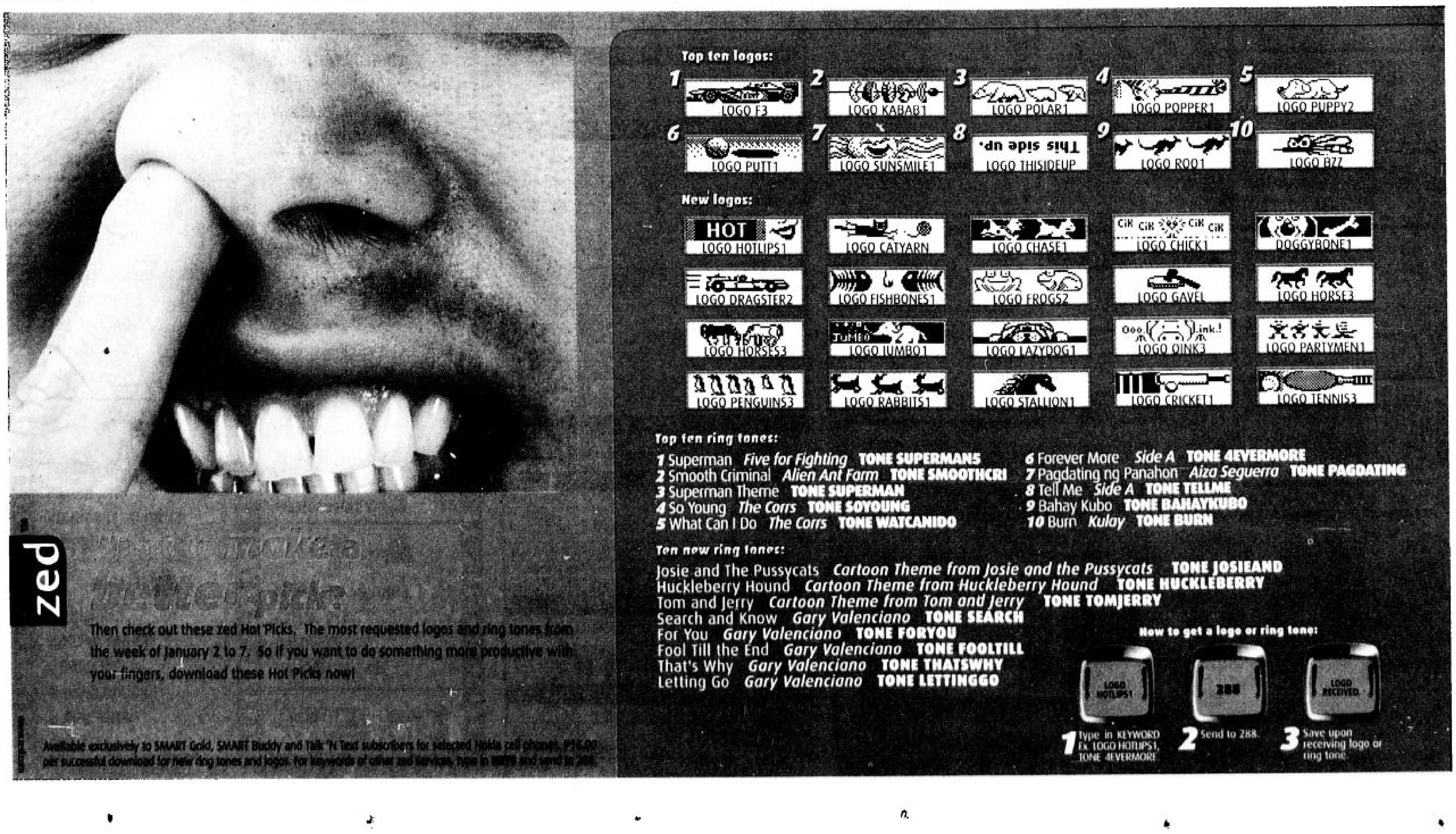
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 09 912-8983



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5 What Can I Do *The Corrs* TONE WATCANIDO
6 Forever More *Side A* TONE 4EVERMORE
7 Pagdating ng Panahon *Aiza Seguerra* TONE PAGDATING
8 Tell Me *Side A* TONE TELLME
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For You *Gary Valenciano* TONE FORYOU
Fool Till the End *Gary Valenciano* TONE FOOLTILL
That's Why *Gary Valenciano* TONE THATSWHY
Letting Go *Gary Valenciano* TONE LETTINGGO

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2	SPY GAME in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	YAMASHITA in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	GIRL FEVER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GLORIETTA 4

1	THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE LORD OF THE RINGS THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	GLASS HOUSE Art Film in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	ON THE LINE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	SPY GAMES in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	SPY GAMES in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	HAPPY END in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SPY GAMES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	WEEKEND WITH POPS Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	SPY GAMES THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	SPY GAMES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	ON THE LINE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE
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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
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1 (DDS)	SPY GAME
2 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
3 (DTS)	GIRL FEVER
4 GOLD (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	SPY GAME
6 GOLD (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	BAGONG BUWAN
9	YAMASHITA
10	WALANG IWANAN

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	CLOSE
2	CLOSE
3 (DTS)	BRO
4	HUBOG
5	CLOSE
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	WALANG IWANAN
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	KAMIY TAO LAMANG

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	SPY GAMES
2	PEKSMAN
3	GIRL FEVER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	KAMIY TAO LAMANG

METROPOLIS star
543.3927 loc. 150

1	WALANG IWANAN
2	HUBOG
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
6	SPY GAMES
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	SPY GAMES

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BAGONG BUWAN
2	BAHAY NI LOLA

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	BRO
2	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
3	PEKSMAN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	CLOSE
A	KAMIY TAO LAMANG

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	WALANG IWANAN
2	CLOSE
3	CLOSE
4	CLOSE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	HUBOG
5	GIRL FEVER
6	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
7 (DTS)	SPY GAMES
8 (SDDS)	GLASS HOUSE
9 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	KAMITY TAO LAMANG

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	YAMASHITA
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	HUBOG
4 (SDDS)	SPY GAMES
5	PEKSMAN
6 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RING
7 (DTS)	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
8	BAHAY NI LOLA
9	BRO

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	SPY GAMES
2	HUBOG
3	PEKSMAN
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
6	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
7 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	GIRL FEVER

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	SPY GAMES
2	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
3 (DTS)	HUBOG
4	PEKSMAN
5 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	SPY GAMES

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	WALANG IWANAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
Lords	RESERVE
Jennet	HUBOG

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	WALANG IWANAN
3	KAMIY TAO LAMANG

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	WALANG IWANAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	SPY GAMES
3	WALANG IWANAN
4	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
3	WALANG IWANAN
4	CLOSED
5	CLOSED
6	KAMIY TAO LAMANG

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	WALANG IWANAN
2	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
3	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
2	PEKSMAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	BEHIND ENEMY
2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	HUBOG
2	PEKSMAN
3 (DTS)	SPY GAMES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BAGONG BUWAN
2 (DTS)	PEKSMAN
3 (DOLBY)	SPY GAMES
4	HUBOG

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	WALANG IWANAN
2 (DOLBY)	SPY GAME
3 (DTS)	HUBOG
4	BAGONG BUWAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	BAHAY NI LOLA
2	HUBOG
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown
(Tarlac)

1	BRO
2	MASKETEERS
3 (DOLBY)	BRO
4 (DTS)	SUMMER CATCH

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
3	WALANG IWANAN
4 (DTS)	SPY GAMES

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	SPY GAMES
2	WALANG IWANAN
3 (DTS)	HUBOG
4	SPY GAMES
5	BAGONG BUWAN

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	WALANG IWANAN
2	HUBOG
3	SPY GAMES

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	WALANG IWANAN
2	HUBOG
3	SPY GAMES

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	BRO
2	HUBOG
3	SUSMARYOSEP

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	BATANG LANSANGAN
2	
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	HUBOG
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HUBOG
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3	BATANG LANSANGAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

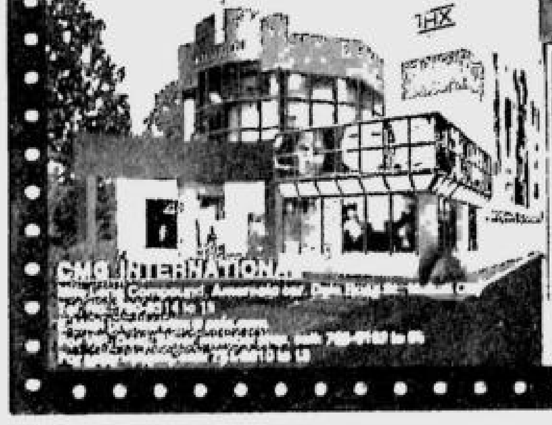
1	THE SCORE
2	KING OF GLADIATOR
3	YAMASHITA
4	BAGONG BUWAN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	EARTHQUAKE
2	HUBOG
3	ROCKSTAR
4 (DTS EX)	YAMASHITA

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



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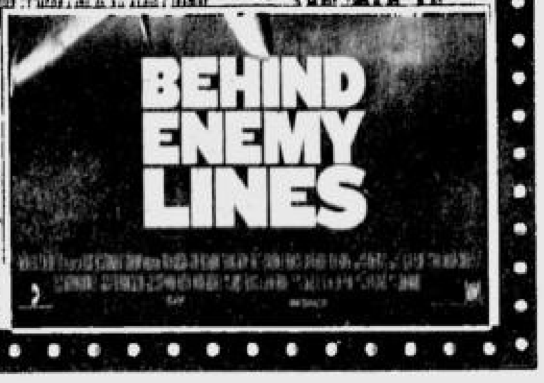

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1	LORD OF THE RING
2	LORD OF THE RING
3	LORD OF THE RING
4	GIRLS FEVER
5	SPY GAMES
6	ON THE LINE
7	GLASS HOUSE
8	BAGONG BUWAN
9	YAMASHITA
10	PEKSMAN

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	GIRLS FEVER
3	GLASS HOUSE
4	ON THE LINE
5	PEKSMAN
6	LORD OF THE RING
7	SPY GAMES

METRO EAST 632-9115-16 / 633-7641

1	GIRLS FEVER
2	LORD OF THE RING
3	LORD OF THE RING
4	HUBOG
5	SPY GAMES
6	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
7	PEKSMAN
8	BAGONG BUWAN

NOVALICHES 936-3229 TO 31

1	ON THE LINE
2	LORD OF THE RING
3	LORD OF THE RING
4	GIRLS FEVER
5	SPY GAMES
6	PEKSMAN
7	YAMASHITA
8	BAGONG BUWAN

IMUS (046) 471-9199

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
3	GIRLS FEVER
4	SPY GAMES
5	PEKSMAN
6	BAGONG BUWAN

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 / 0458

1	SUMMER CATCH
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	TATARIN
4	EARTHQUAKE
5	MOST VALUABLE
6	BUBBLE BOY

ILOILO (033) 330-9077 / 9078

1	THE MASKETTERS
2	MOST VALUABLE
3	SUSMARYOSEP
4	HUBOG
5	BAGONG BUWAN
6	YAMASHITA

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE
ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BAGONG BUWAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	WALANG IWANAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPY GAME
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	GIRL FEVER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	ON THE LINE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ROSARIO-18/TEMPRESS AFFAIR
ODEON	WALANG IWANAN
ODEON-2	LORD OF THE RING
ROBEN	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	KNIGHT'S TAIL / THE BODY

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
REMAR	WALANG IWANAN
REMAR-2	KAMIY TAO LAMANG

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
B	BRO. KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
C	HUBOG

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAHAY NI LOLA
CINEMA-2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
CINEMA-3	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	GIRL FEVER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	WALANG IWANAN
CINEMA-6	HUBOG
CINEMA-7	YAMASHITA
CINEMA-8	TATARIN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SPY GAME
CINEMA-12	ON THE LINE
CINEMA-14	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-15	LORD OF THE RINGS

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	ON THE LINE
CINEMA-2	SPY GAMES
CINEMA-3	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-4	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-5	THE GLASS HOUSE
CINEMA-6	THE LORD OF THE RINGS

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

'Jessica Soho Reports' on GMA 7

JESSICA Soho Reports," 11 tonight on GMA, tackles the Filipino cellphone craze and the garbage dilemma.

Ever since the cellphone fever hit the country, almost every Filipino was smitten by it. All new cellphone models in various colors drove many Filipinos, both young and old, crazy.

The garbage problem has remained unsolved for years, but this time, the government thought they had solved it. Trash for rice. People are encouraged to collect garbage and turn it over to the roving vans of the MMDA in exchange for rice.

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173888

1	HUBOG
2	GIRL FEVER
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	SPY GAMES
6	PEKSMAN
7	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
8	ON THE LINE

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 -7161416

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
3	SPY GAMES
4	GIRLS FEVER
5	LORD OF THE RINGS
6	BAGONG BUWAN
7	HUBOG
8	ON THE LINE
9	PEKSMAN
10	BAHAY NI LOLA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	GIRL FEVER
2	HUBOG
3	YAMASHITA
4	LORD OF THE RING
5	SPY GAMES
6	PEKSMAN
7	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	BAGONG BUWAN
10	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
11	ON THE LINE
12	BAHAY NI LOLA

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	SPY GAMES
3	YAMASHITA
4	ON THE LINE
5	GLASS HOUSE
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	GIRL FEVER
8	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
9	LORD OF THE RINGS
10	HUBOG
11	PEKSMAN
12	BAGONG BUWAN

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	ON THE LINE
3	SPY GAMES
4	LORD OF THE RING
5	YAMASHITA
6	GLASS HOUSE
7	GIRL FEVER
8	HUBOG
9	BAGONG BUWAN
10	LORD OF THE RINGS
11	PEKSMAN
12	KAMIY TAO LAMANG

SM TUTUBAN 2514302

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	SPY GAMES
3	PEKSMAN
4	BAGONG BUWAN

dts DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	ON THE LINE
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4	PEKSMAN
5	GIRL FEVER
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	SPY GAMES
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
10	BAHAY NI LOLA
11	HUBOG
12	YAMASHITA

SM SOUTHMALL 8066088 • 8066782

1	GIRLS FEVER
2	HOBOG
3	SPY GAMES
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	ON THE LINE
6	BAHAY NI LOLA
7	PEKSMAN
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	BAGONG BUWAN
10	KAMIY TAO LAMANG

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820905

1	PEKSMAN
2	SPY GAMES
3	KAMIY TAO LAMANG

SM CEBU 2313878

1	ON THE LINE
2	WOLF GIRL
3	SUMMER CATCH
4	SPY GAMES
5	BAHAY NI LOLA
6	PISNGI NG LANGIT
7	YAMASHITA

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	HUBOG
2	CLOSED
3	MASKETTEER
4	4 FATHERS
5	BAGONG BUWAN
6	BAHAY NI LOLA
7	CLOSED
8	MOST VALUABLE

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	SPY GAMES
2	SUMMER CATCH
3	ROCKSTAR
4	ON THE LINE
5	HUBOG
6	PEKSMAN

SM SUCAT 8294975

1	PEKSMAN
2	SPY GAMES
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	ON THE LINE

SM DAVAO

1	YAMASHITA
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3	SPY GAMES
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	WOLF GIRLS
6	4 FATHERS

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

Make way for a videoke challenge on TV

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

TO THE seers who predicted that there would be fewer game shows this year, this one proves them wrong.

GMA 7 will launch yet another game show, this time for videoke lovers, with P1 million at stake for the winner.

"K" is a weekly videoke challenge on TV which will test the musical skill of each contestant. You don't have to be a mathematical genius or a history buff to join this game. You simply have to know how to carry a tune and sing the musical piece with the correct words.

"K" stands for *kuwarta, kasiyahan, kantahan* and *kampeon.* Every week, there will be seven contestants who will pit musical wits against each other for the chance to win as much as P1 million.

SECOND TIME AROUND. After "Go-Bingo," Arnel Ignacio now hosts "K."

Every round, the contestants have to sing the song which pops up on their computer screen, with selected lyrics deleted. If he knows the deleted word, he wins a corresponding cash prize which gets bigger if the other contestants also know the correct word in the song for that particular round.

The categories to choose from are "Eh Kasi Noypi" for OPM tunes, "Straight from the Hits" for Top 40, "La Vida Lola" for old favorites, "Yabadabadoo" for children's songs and "Tele at Sine Republic" for movie themes.

As the game progresses, the pot gets bigger. But for every round, one contestant gets booted out by a panel of "Hired K-Lers (read: killers), which will be composed of celebrity guests.

For the last round with the face-off of two contestants, the pot money will be doubled. The game ends with the last remaining contestant taking home cash prize.

"K" was an original concept by GMA's senior vice president and Ten Outstanding Young Filipinos awardee, **Bobby Barreiro,** who reportedly loves to sing. The concept was later developed by the network's creative team.

"As days went by, we were able to finalize the program format," said GMA programming executive **Wilma Galvante.**

"K" will be hosted by **Arnel Ignacio** and premieres on Sunday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m. after "Partners: Mel and Jay."

Hosting a game show is nothing new to Arnel. A few years back, he ignited the game show craze with the successful "Go-Bingo," also on GMA 7.

"He (Arnel) is the first and only choice to host 'K,'" informs Wilma.

SALONGA

GENEROSO

The pilot episode of "K" will see seven celebrities gamely exercising their vocal glands—**Joey de Leon, Rosanna Roces, Michael V., Arnold Clavio, Butch Francisco, Dingdong Dantes** and **Lhar Santiago.**

If you love singing at I.O., why not try to make money out of your videoke craze by joining the succeeding episodes of "K?"

Asian premiere

LEA Salonga will mount the stage of GSIS Theater for the first time not for another musical, but for her first straight play in years, "Proof."

David Auburn's "Proof," which won the Tony Awards in Broadway, will make its Asian premiere in Manila tonight and will run until Jan. 27.

The play is produced by Atlantis Productions and directed by **Bobby Garcia,** the same theater genius behind the Philippine productions of "Chess," "Oleanna," "Angels in America," "Rent," "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Hedwig and the Angry Inch."

Lea appears in "Proof" after a much-acclaimed performance in Los Angeles, where she played the lead in the revival of "Flower Drum Song."

In "Proof," Lea is joined onstage by only three cast members—**Michael de Mesa, Joel Trinidad** and **Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo.**

"Proof" remains a hot ticket on Broadway. It also earned for its playwright the Pulitzer Prize.

Tonight's gala is sponsored by Bayo, the local garment line for women, which Lea is now endorsing.

After "Proof," Lea will return to the concert scene as she performs in a two-night show, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 at the PICC.

She is also set to do another album of Tagalog remakes for BMG Records Pilipinas, her music label for the past five years now.

'Crossover Presents'

SIDE A vocalist **Joey Generoso** returns to the Captain's Bar stage as this month's featured artist in "Crossover Presents," 10 tomorrow night, Jan. 10.

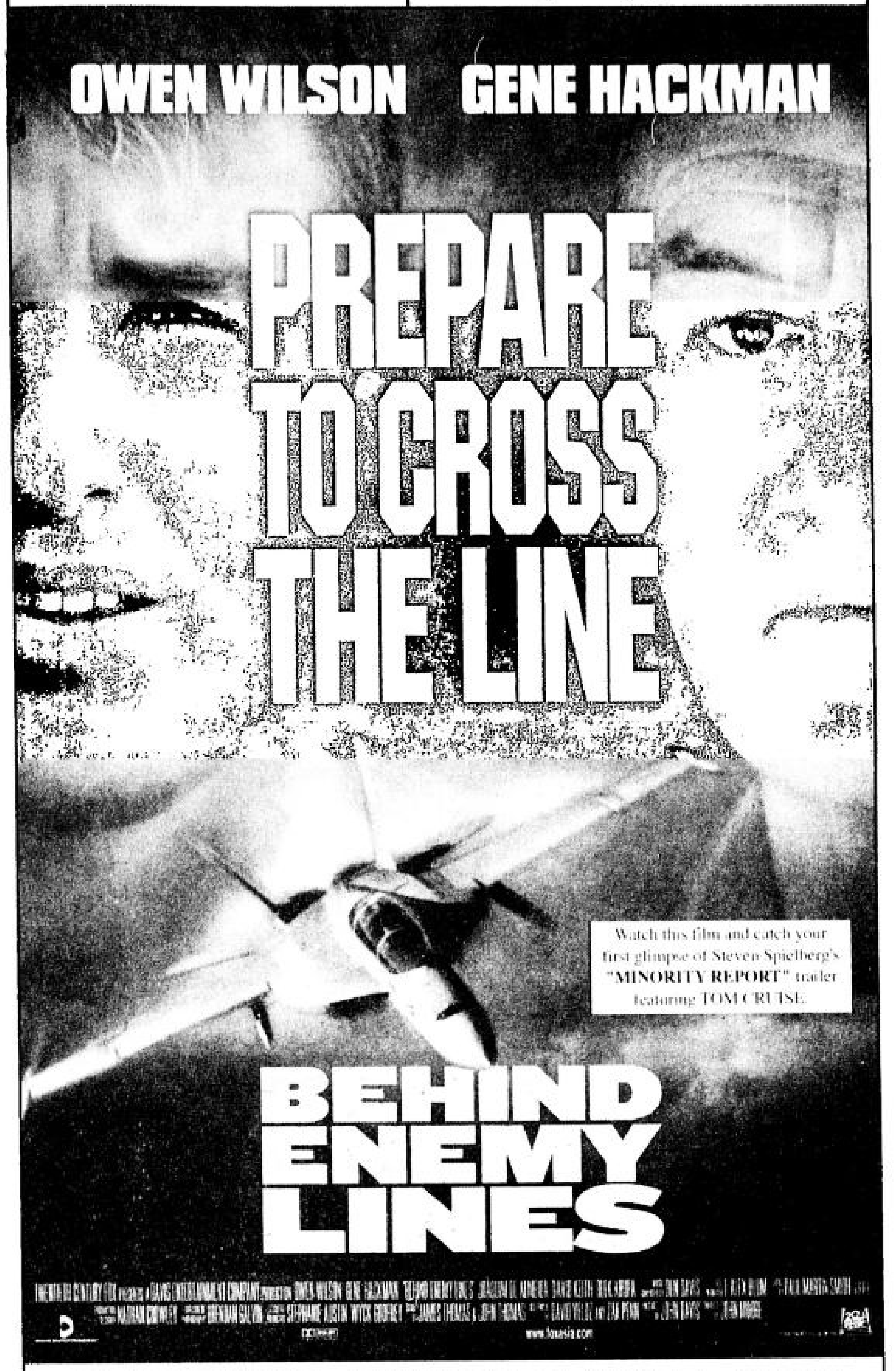
It will be remembered that Joey did a solo show for Crossover last year at the same venue. His concert, minus the four other members of Side A, was well-received which is probably what prompted 105.1 Crossover to bring him back to Captain's Bar.

Joining Joey G. onstage is singer-comedienne **Mitch Valdes.** Musical director is **Gerard Salonga,** with seasoned musicians **Mel Villena** on saxophone, **Bobby Taylo** on bass, **Cesar Aguas** on guitar and **Roy Mercado** on drums.

The Opera provides back-up vocals. Setting the mood for the show are the soothing strains of Da Capo, which will perform before Joey's act.

The monthly "Crossover Presents" series has featured other artists such as **Ogie Alcasid, Janno Gibbs, Regine Velasquez, Jaya, Pops Fernandez, Gary Valenciano** and **Basil Valdez.**

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.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LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 1:50, 5:20, 8:50	GLASS HOUSE - P 13 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:30	LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 11:50, 3:20, 6:50, 10:20

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Art Film
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JAN 9 TO 14, 2002
Happy End is the debut work of director Jung Ji-woo, who won acclaim with an earlier short film titled A Bit Bitter (literal translation: "Ginger"). This new work focuses on three characters: a banker who loses his job but finds a sense of fulfillment in his new life at home, taking care of his daughter and reading mysteries in the park; his wife, a successful career woman who manages a language institute; and her ex-boyfriend, with whom she became separated years earlier when he was drafted into the army.
NEXT ATTRACTIONS
THE KING IS DANCING (Restricted 18)
JAN. 15 to 19, 2002
TEARS OF THE BLACK TIGER (Restricted 18)
JAN. 20 to 22, 2002

OPENS TODAY

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Robert REDFORD
SPY GAME
It's how the Game Plays you.
Brad PITT
MTRCB RATING PG-13

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Ang Bagong Kilig
to the Bones
OPENS JANUARY 16
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GISELLE SANCHEZ
GENEVA CRUZ
JANETTE MCBRIDE
LONG MEJIA
ANDREW E.
BURLES KING
Directed by Ipe Pelino

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Films that brightened up a dark year

By PAUL DAZA

THE YEAR 2001 began with a new Philippine president being sworn into office and it ended with fears of a global recession and the continued threat of terrorism. Through it all, there were a few terrific movies and lots of awful ones to distract us and help us cope with the awful business of everyday living.

Most of the films in this list are mindlessly escapist, and that's no accident. Year 2001 was, for me at least, a year when fantastic worlds populated by monsters, musicians, wizards, and artificial humans were the very things needed to distract from the kidnappings, rising unemployment and other disasters we faced at every turn.

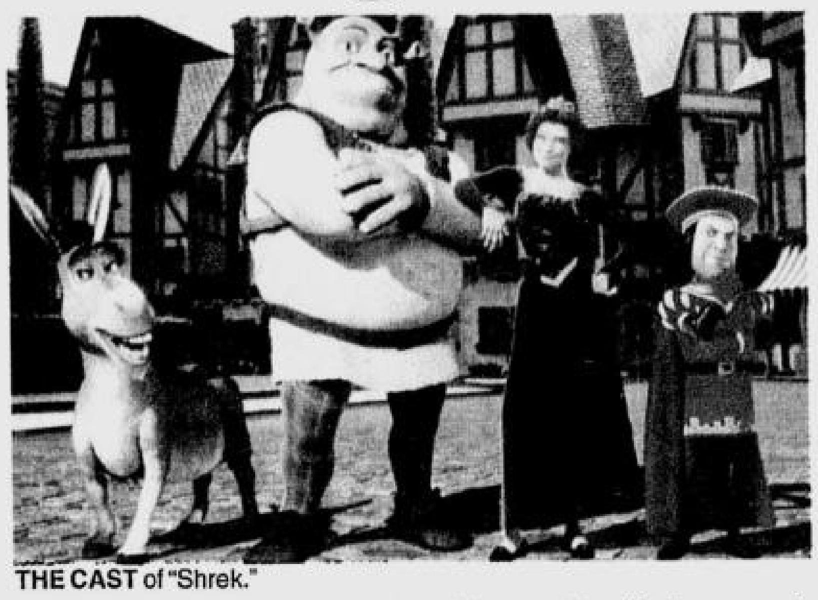
Here, in no particular order, are the movies which helped illuminate one of the darkest years in recent memory.

'Moulin Rouge'

The movie that resurrected and reinvented the musical in grand style and married it with gorgeous special effects, Baz Luhrmann's "Moulin Rouge" stands above the rest in showing us how rich and intoxicating a good movie can and should be.

The blissfully anachronistic soundtrack is a character unto itself, the perfect complement to director Luhrmann's magnetic, multi-layered visuals.

As if these were not enough eye and ear candy, the movie also stars Ewan McGregor and Nicole Kidman as a pair of singing and dancing star-crossed lovers who meet in 19th century Paris.



THE CAST of "Shrek."

'Shrek'

The comedy that made fun of everything that Disney's politically-correct fairy tale cartoons hold sacred is the funniest movie of the year, whether animated or live-action.

Ironically, by spoofing Disney, "Shrek" may well end up with the first Oscar for best animated feature film, a scenario that is sending shivers up the spines of Disney animation fans.

As a talking donkey, Eddie Murphy delivers the movie's most inspired guffaws. The funniest sequence, however, has to be the part where Shrek and Princess Fiona, while on a "date," inflate a couple of unlucky forest creatures and turn them into unwilling balloons.

In one important aspect, however, "Shrek" doesn't deviate from Disney: It insists that true beauty lies within, a lesson that will hopefully never go out of style.

'A.I.: Artificial Intelligence'

The few who saw "A.I." believe that writer/director Steven Spielberg should have ended his futuristic film at the point when the android boy David, played by the brilliant Haley Joel Osment, "meets" the Blue Fairy underwater and repeatedly begs her to make him into a real boy. Ending it thus would have deprived moviegoers of one of the most moving scenes committed to film this year—the heartbreaking moment where David is reunited with his mother long after she's passed away.

Ending the film early would also have deprived viewers of Meryl Streep's wonderful voiceover as the Blue Fairy. Here's hoping that "AI" is given a second life when it's released on video and DVD later this year. By all means, stay away from the pirated VCDs which cheapen the quality of Spielberg's meticulously designed environments.

'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone'

The movie that more than any other made the world forget about Sept. 11, 2001. A case of perfect timing, "Harry Potter" ushered in the Christmas season early for the many ardent Potter fans with its depiction of love, fun and friendship among pre-teens attending a school for witchcraft and wizardry.

True, much of the wonder dissipates after repeated viewings, but "Harry Potter" is still one of those rare movies that have already taken permanent residence in the collective minds of children of all ages.

Rather than dwell on the things which director Chris Columbus got wrong, I prefer to celebrate what he got right: He faithfully transplanted author J.K. Rowling's words from the printed page and visualized them on the big screen the way most of us imagined the characters and places in our heads.

'Monsters, Inc.'

"Shrek" may have mined laughs at Disney's expense, but "Monsters Inc." proves that the traditional, conservative formula of Disney/Pixar can still work in our cynical, post-modern world. A witty script, an imaginative but simple plot, splendid visuals, and clever voice casting jell to make a superbly entertaining little movie about how the monsters we fear are afraid of us, too.

There are many reasons to love this movie, not the least of which is the perfect ending which leaves enough to the imagination.

'Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring'

This movie just opened in Manila theaters, but we saw it two days earlier last Christmas, so it qualifies for this list.

"The Lord of the Rings" is the best movie we've seen in years, rivaling the "Star Wars" adventures and "Harry Potter" in its ability to give the fantasy genre the class, sophistication and intelligence it deserves. Enchantingly visualized, lovingly scored, and teeming with the filmmakers' heartfelt passion for J.R.R. Tolkien's books in every frame, "The Fellowship of the Ring" is not an easy movie to watch, given its violence, numerous characters, complex plot, and three-hour running time, but no one can deny that it's a first-class labor of love, the kind of movie that movies were surely invented to showcase.

You won't be able to take your eyes off it.

ACTRESS Sissy Spacek (right) and daughter Schuyler Fisk. Spacek was nominated for her work in the film "In the Bedroom." AP

The night's biggest winners are no-shows at inaugural AFI awards

BEVERLY HILLS, California—What if you threw a Hollywood award show and the winners stayed away?

That was the embarrassing situation facing the American Film Institute Awards on Saturday, when director Robert Altman and actors Denzel Washington, Gene Hackman, Jennifer Connelly, Judy Davis and James Gandolfini didn't show up to collect their honors.

The only film actor winner at the show was Sissy Spacek, who won best actress for the dark suburban drama "In the Bedroom."

"The no-shows were not a snub of the award, it's just that the underdogs weren't there with speeches ready," said Tom O'Neil, an award-show scholar who runs Goldderby.com, which tracks Oscar predictions.

The new show is the first big ceremony of Hollywood's long awards season, and the best picture win by "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings" seemingly legitimizes the fantasy epic's Oscar quest.

Altman and Hackman gained Oscar momentum Saturday with both the AFI Awards and honors from the National Society of Film Critics.

AFI, a film training and preservation organization, is well-respected for its lists ranking all-time top American films or screen stars, but it hosted its first major award ceremony with mixed results.

Actor Dustin Hoffman delivered a choppy introduction while staring blankly at the camera, and there were few jokes to add levity to the proceedings. Most damaging, only 11 of the 19 winners were there, most of them behind-the-scenes artists.

O'Neil said it would be unfair to judge the show by who attended.

In several cases, three out of four nominees were in the audience and only the winner was missing. *AP*

Tapestry of visual delights

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FROM beginning to end, "The Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring" wraps viewers in its large, luminous tapestry of visual delights and thematic resonances. Viewing it is like sitting at the feet of two master storytellers, writer **J.R.R. Tolkien** and director **Peter Jackson.**

As they tell their mythic tale, the tapestry they weave becomes an all-enveloping cinematic dream in which we aren't mere observers but participants, thus making for great empathy and involvement.

Given this personal relationship, the production doesn't have to hype up its story or decorate it with diverting gewgaws and comic byplay. The quest is the thing, thus all of the movie's fantasticating elements are focused on it.

Which is not to say that the movie doesn't seek to entertain. It does, but with great, brilliant strokes of visual beauty or terror.

The grand approach is called for by the film's story, which concerns itself with nothing less than the very survival or subjugation of Middle Earth. Once upon a mythic time, the lords of the kingdoms in that legendary land were given special rings with which to rule wisely, powerfully and well, with an even more powerful master ring to fuse them in a common intent.

Alas, this master ring falls into the hands of an evil lord, Sauron, who, luckily enough for the world, loses control over it. By some clever twist of fate, it falls into the hands of a little Hobbit, who subsequently bequeaths it to his young relative, Frodo Baggins (**Elijah Wood**).

The evil lord Sauron's men search far and wide for the all-powerful ring, but it is safe in Frodo's care. He in turn is guided and protected by a good wizard, Gandalf (**Ian Mckellen**), who unfortunately is no match for the super-powerful Sauron, who eventually holds him hostage on a high tower, unable to help his little Hobbit friend.

But Frodo turns out to be the perfect custodian for the ring. It promises such power to whoever possesses it that it corrodes the hearts of all creatures—except the preternaturally innocent Frodo. His heart is so pure that he is able to withstand the ring's evil seduction.

With other Hobbits, knights and powerful elementals, Frodo seeks to cancel out the ring's potential for evil by returning it to the volcanic fires of Mordor, from whence it sprang.

Their arduous voyage to that fiery, fetid kingdom, fraught with many dangers and confrontations with awesome beasts and ogres, makes up the body of this first of three "Rings" movies.

The film is so visually opulent and "operatic" that its compelling images constantly threaten to upstage its actors. To their credit, Wood, McKellen, **Cate Blanchett** and the other master thespians in this ensemble are able to hold their own despite all the digitized splendors virtually exploding around them.

The ace up their sleeves is their decision to take the fantasy tale seriously, as though it really were a matter of life and death for the characters they're playing.

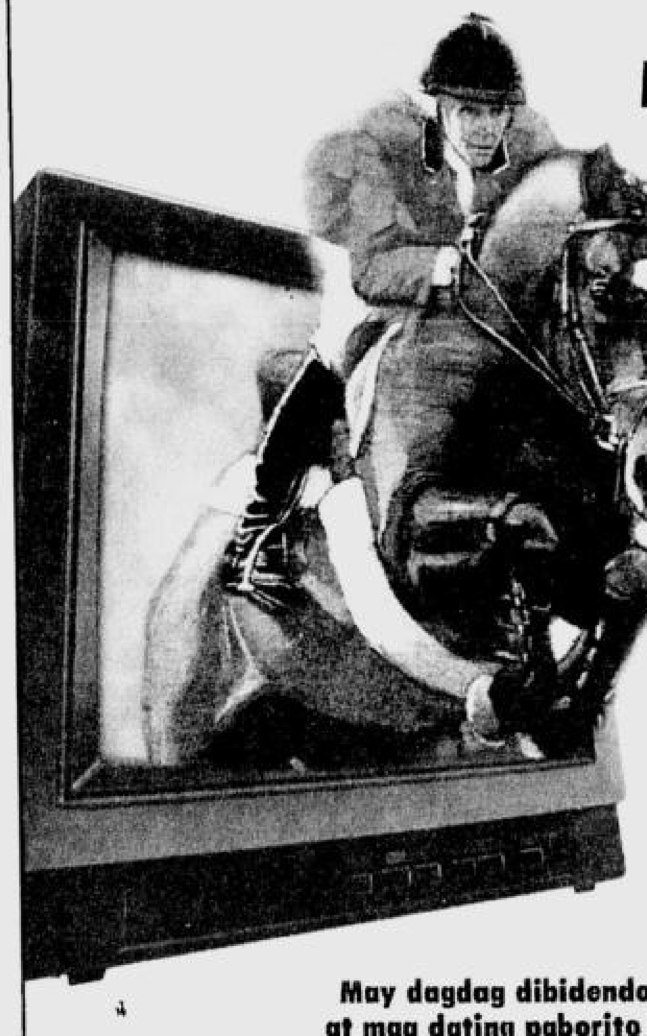
In particular, Elijah Wood is able to make his "little" Hobbit character the film's sweet, pure, stalwart storm center, staring down the most monstrous foes with the pristine strength of his heart.

"The Fellowship of the Ring" eventually feels too long and is too serious by half when compared to the droll and lighthearted "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," but it is ultimately superior to last year's big fantasy hit.

With its more focused approach, Tolkien and Jackson'' film has more compelling and insightful things to say about good, evil, courage, friendship, selflessness and unity in diversity.

Instructively, these themes are still of acute relevance today, when new Saurons and other evil monsters seek to subjugate humans and Hobbits alike.

Ito ang tamang salubong sa Year of the Horse!



MGA BUENAS PALABAS NG GMA

May dagdag dibidendo - mga bagong palabas at mga dating paborito na lalo pang pinaganda!

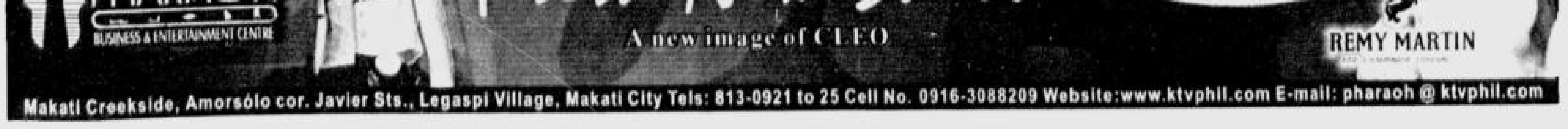
MONDAY TO FRIDAY
SANA AY IKAW NA NGA new timeslot 6:30
HUNTER X HUNTER gew ANIME 7:00
DRAGONBALL Z Battle Arena 7:30
IKAW LANG ANG MAMAHALIN 8:00
8:30 MONICA BRAVA
9:00 Monday GMA'S BEST Next: Snake & Crane Arts of Shaolin (JACKIE CHAN)
Tuesday KOOL KA LANG
Wednesday BEH BOTE NGA
Thursday KASANGGA new timeslot
Friday BUBBLE GANG

SATURDAY
POKEMON new timeslot 5:30
IMBESTIGADOR new timeslot 6:00

SUNDAY
K! The P 1 MILLION VIDEOKE Challenge New Game Show 7:00
DADDY DI DO DU new timeslot 8:00

GMA

Panalo ka sa ganda, panalo ka pa sa saya!



TIME TO PHARAOH!
PHARAOH KTV BUSINESS & ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE
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Fresh New Start
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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▩ **CORRIE S. NARISMA**, Assistant Editor

Bangko Sentral warns forex speculators

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said it was more prepared to defend the peso against speculators this year with its higher reserves of $15.7 billion.

However, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura cautioned against letting the local currency gain too much as this would adversely affect exports.

Buenaventura explained that the country could ill-afford to let the peso become very strong because it would make Philippine exports less competitive while domestic industries could be hurt by a deluge of cheap imports.

"We should maintain the current level of the peso because it is also not good if it would be too strong. The important thing is to have a stable local currency at a level ideal for both exports and imports," the BSP governor noted.

The peso had been stable at the mid-51 level after it recovered from bouts of speculation from June to August last year when it hit a day low of 54.335 to a dollar on July 18. The peso's continued fall was arrested by tighter foreign exchange regulation of the BSP.

The country's gross international reserves went up by almost $1 billion in December from the previous month's $14.8 billion as loan proceeds of three fund-raising activities of the government beefed up the BSP's vaults.

The level of dollar reserves is one of the indicators of the country's financial health because it implies an ability to pay for imports and a strong capacity of the central bank to defend the local currency.

The end-December level, according bank analysts, would provide the central bank with enough ammunition to fight currency speculators that could bring the level of the peso down as they did in several instances in the last two years.

A decline in the GIR usually triggers speculation because it gives an impression that the BSP would be helpless to fight the currency attacks.

The BSP was mindful of preserving the dollar reserves above the psychological level of $14 billion last year and even resorted to a $300-million, short-term borrowing in September and a $550-million, four-year borrowing in November to bring the GIR up.

The gross international reserves of $15.7 billion were enough to pay for nearly five months worth of imports and were equivalent to 2.7 times the amount of the country's debts maturing in one year.

Comprised mainly of US dollars, the GIR is the total foreign currency holdings of the central bank including gold and special drawing rights. the currency used by the International Monetary Fund.

The reserves normally increase with every foreign borrowing of the government or the private sector and declines every time a foreign obligation or importation is settled.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the increase in the country's dollar holdings was due to the aggressive borrowing of the national government and the proceeds of three fund-raising exercises last month.

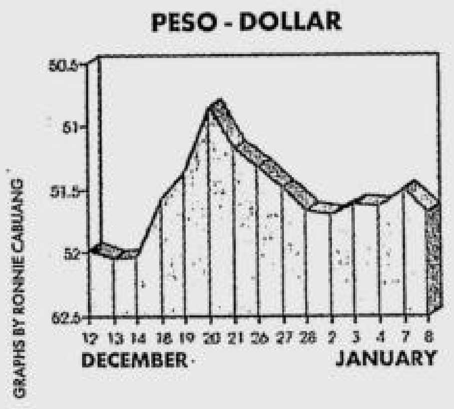
Among the funds raised by the national government were a $365-million yen borrowing, a $117-million borrowing from dollar-deposit units of locally operating banks, and a $444-million euro bond issue in behalf of National Power Corp.

Except for the Napocor fund-raising, the two other borrowings were meant to finance the requirements of the Macapagal administration this year. This means that the dollar funds would be intact in the next couple of months while the Napocor funds could be withdrawn anytime soon.

The end-December level of reserves was the highest since March 2000 when the GIR hit a high of $16 billion also due to foreign borrowings.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

P 51.68 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 8, 2002

¥ 132.64 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 8, 2002

GOLD:$278.60/279.10

per ounce Hong Kong,
Jan. 8, 2002

Jan 8, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.118693	1.000000	51.5440
Japan	Yen	0.008538	0.007632	0.3934
United Kingdom	Pound	1.611030	1.440100	74.2285
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143446	0.128226	6.6093
Switzerland	Franc	0.678696	0.606686	31.2710
Canada	Dollar	0.699490	0.625274	32.2291
Singapore	Dollar	0.606535	0.542182	27.9462
Australia	Dollar	0.579934	0.518403	26.7206
Bahrain	Dinar	2.967514	2.652661	136.7288
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.298311	0.266660	13.7447
Brunei	Dollar	0.605026	0.540833	27.8767
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000096	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.025501	0.022795	1.1749
UAE	Dirham	0.304655	0.272331	14.0370
Korea	Won	0.000866	0.000774	0.0399
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.893900	46.0752
Brazil	Real	0.477258	0.426621	21.9898
Denmark	Kroner	0.134431	0.120168	6.1939
India	Rupee	0.023258	0.020790	1.0716
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.294432	0.263193	13.5660
Mexico	New Peso	0.122262	0.109290	5.6332
New Zealand	Dollar	0.478278	0.427533	22.0368
Norway	Kroner	0.125498	0.112183	5.7824
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018675	0.016694	0.8605
South Africa	Rand	0.095615	0.08547	4.4055
Sweden	Kroner	0.108330	0.096836	4.9913
Syria	Pound	0.025718	0.022989	1.1849
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032110	0.028703	1.4795
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001474	0.001318	0.0679

STOCK MARKET

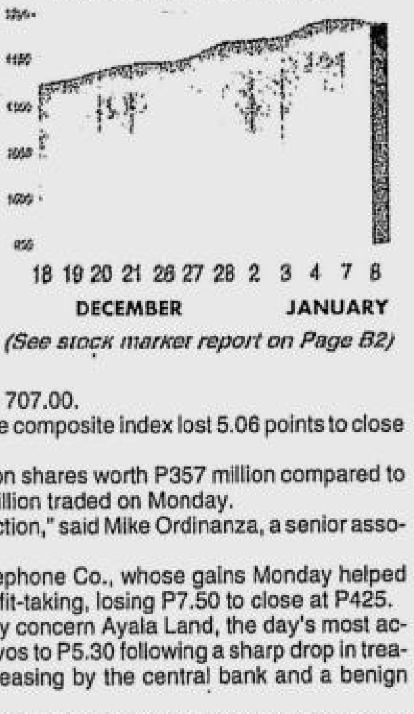
Shares down 0.4%

SHARES closed lower yesterday, chased down by profit-taking after six straight trading days of gains, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index declined 5.06 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,186.97 after rising 2.14 points Monday to 1,192.03 and chalking up a total 4 percent gain since Dec. 26.

The broader All Shares Index lost 10.39 points to 696.61 after advancing 7.92 points Monday to 707.00.

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost 5.06 points to close at 1,186.97.

Turnover plunged to 298 million shares worth P357 million compared to 564 million shares worth P533 million traded on Monday.

"It was a minor technical correction," said Mike Ordinanza, a senior associate at PCI Capital Corp.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., whose gains Monday helped lift the market, succumbed to profit-taking, losing P7.50 to close at P425.

Interest rate-sensitive property concern Ayala Land, the day's most actively traded stock, rose 10 centavos to P5.30 following a sharp drop in treasury bill yields due to monetary easing by the central bank and a benign inflation outlook.

The gain by Ayala Land, the day's most actively traded stock, helped temper the market's losses Tuesday, when losers beat gainers 45 to 16. There were 25 issues unchanged. *AP*

P50-M capital for brokers pushed

FOREIGN brokers have suggested that the Securities and Exchange Commission adopt a P50-million minimum capital requirement for existing brokers, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said.

The local brokers, however, were amenable only to a P10-million minimum capital requirement, she noted.

Bautista said that the Commission has not yet made up its mind on the ideal minimum capital level and would have to study the current requirements among other stock exchanges in the region.

"We're making a study as to what is best. We feel there should be a minimum paid-up capital for existing brokers," she said.

Bautista disclosed that some local brokers seemed willing to revisit a proposal from an SEC consultant that there would be "clearing" and " non-clearing" brokers with the former required to comply with a minimum capital level. Earlier, the brokers had strongly objected to the proposed scheme.

At present, the SEC has no capital requirements for existing brokers although market makers or those who can deal in securities are supposed to have P100 million in capital. This broker-dealer rule, however, has been suspended until later this year.

Pascua quits as Metro Pacific CEO

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

PROPERTY firm Metro Pacific Corp. yesterday announced the resignation of its president and CEO Ricardo Pascua who had earlier gone on leave in order to structure a management buyout of the company.

The resignation was effective last Dec. 31 on the heels of efforts led by MPC's parent company, Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., to sell its controlling stake in Bonifacio Land Corp., co-developer of the 150-hectare crown jewel Fort Bonifacio Global City.

"With the resignation from MPC, Mr. Pascua has also tendered his resignations from all companies associated with MPC where he holds positions in," MPC spokesperson Michael Goco said.

These include Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. (the joint venture company formed with the state-controlled Bases Conversion and Development Authority) to develop the Fort Bonifacio Global City, holding firm BLC, First e-Bank, leisure estate developer Landco Pacific Corp. and shipping firm Negros Navigation Co.

"Mr. Pascua resigned in order to pursue personal interests and other opportunities, which have arisen," Goco said.

Pascua has earlier gone on leave to disinterest himself from the ongoing bidding process for the company's stake in the Fort Bonifacio Global City after he had declared an intention to structure a management buyout of MPC as an alternative to the sale of MPC's 69.6-percent stake in BLC.

SALES DOWN 8.7%

Auto industry sputters

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE PHILIPPINE automotive industry sputtered in 2001 as it nearly wiped out its 2000 gains due to the political crisis, ebbing consumer confidence and rising competition from used vehicle imports drive down sales.

Assemblers are projecting flat to modest sales growth this year and most players are putting off new model introductions in view of the uncertain economic outlook.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. reported yesterday that industry sales fell 8.7 percent to 76,670 units from January to December 2001 from 83,949 units the previous year. This was a sharp reversal from the industry's rosy performance when sales jumped 12.8 percent and snapped a two-year skid in 2000.

Campi secretary general Mario de Grano said the influx of used vehicles into the country last year weighed heavily on the industry which was reeling from weak demand and a restless labor sector.

De Grano said that most of the second-hand vehicles sold in the country were pickup trucks, passenger vans and sport utility vehicles and this had a direct impact on the local commercial vehicle industry, the industry's main engine for growth in the last four years.

De Grano said the rise in number of vehicle auctions not only affected the bottom line of local assemblers but also impacted on local parts makers since commercial vehicles, specifically Asian utility vehicles, have a high local content. De Grano said he expected the industry to continue consolidating its operations with more layoffs.

Commercial vehicle sales fell 3.9 percent to 52,986 in 2001 from 55,123 units in 2000. Passenger car sales plunged 17.8 percent to 23,648 units in 2001 from 28,826 units in 2000.

A Campi survey on assemblers' projections showed that sales were expected to hit a low of 76,000 to a high of 87,000 units but most of the estimates were bunched up below the 78,000 mark.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. was the industry's overall leader with sales of 19,894 units or a 26-percent share of the market. TMPC first vice president for marketing Daniel Isla said the Toyota Revo was the best-selling model last year with 10,115 units sold while the newly launched Toyota Corolla Altis was the best-selling sedan with 5,419 units sold.

Mitsubishi Motor Philippines Corp. was the leading commercial vehicle assembler with 14,283 units sold or 27 percent of the total segment. It was ranked No. 2 in total industry sales with 16,936 units sold.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. was the top passenger car brand with 7,754 units sold or 33 percent of the market. Honda was No. 4 overall with 9,358 units sold. It is keen on jacking up its place in the standing with its planned introduction of an AUV model this year.

Isuzu Philippines Corp. ranked No. 3 overall with 10,422 units sold or a 13.6-percent market share. Rounding up the top five was the Nissan Motors group with total sales of 8,309 units or a 10.83-percent market share.

Unitrust Bank: A cult-induced implosion

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

CAUGHT in the clutches of a group led by self-styled Japanese cult leader Genta Ogami, Unitrust Development Bank, a small thrift bank with P700 million in assets, simply imploded.

Unitrust declared a bank holiday on Friday following a P138-million bank run and the massive resignation of its officers and employees. That same day, the Monetary Board, the highest policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, approved the bank's closure and transfer to the intensive care unit of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. for possible rehabilitation.

The bank's sudden demise has triggered a barrage of questions. Is Ogami, reportedly convicted for fraud in Japan and leader of a cult that promises "salvation of the world," the real owner? Was the acquisition of the bank an attempt to extend the operations of G. Cosmos Philippines Inc., a company chaired by Ogami that the Securities and Exchange Commission has shut down?

World salvation

Ogami, whose face has been plastered on huge, colorful billboards throughout Metro Manila, promises salvation of the world to those who will invest in his businesses.

OGAMI

INOUE

Based on interviews and documents, two Japanese firms, G. Universal Ltd. and Minamoto Saiken Kaishu Co. Ltd., and three Filipinos—Pedro Montanez, Leopoldo Valcalcel and Francis Yuseco—acquired 100 percent of Unitrust from the group of former Philippine Stock Exchange president Jose Luis Yulo Jr. for P505 million on Sept. 21 last year.

Each of the five took a 20-percent stake in the bank. The ownership transfer also infused P285 million in fresh funds into Unitrust and practically wiped out all its bad debts and nonperforming assets.

In an interview, Yuseco said he and the two other Filipinos, whom he did not know, came to the bank under the lure of Japanese national Kensuko Inoue. It was Inoue, an associate of Ogami, who offered to give them a stake in Unitrust through loans that would be paid off from the bank's profits. They were overjoyed to accept this "wondrous" proposal.

Damaging ad

Things quickly deteriorated, however. Soon after they came in, with Inoue as president, Unitrust came out with a much publicized and controversial two-page "Save the World" ad promising extremely high-paying salaries to new recruits.

This ad, which had no board approval, triggered a massive withdrawal of P40 million as some clients sensed the unmistakable association with Ogami, who at that time had already been publicly linked to the alleged illegal operations of G. Cosmos, according to Yuseco.

After the ad came out, Inoue abruptly resigned and Yuseco took over. Motohiko Hagisaka, another Ogami associate, however, also staked a claim on the position.

Inoue's falling out with Ogami

UNITRUST/ B2

BUGOY
to Rise-eCommerce
Most of the subscribers of RISE have busy schedules
When was the last time you saw your Genealogy?
We checked our down lines months ago. We don't have much time to inquire at the office.
But, how?
Now you can check it whenever you want... wherever.
Go
Links
To be continued...
RISE e-COMMERCE SYSTEMS INC.
Suites 1603 & 1906 Robinsons Galleria Corporate Center, EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave.Ortigas Complex, Quezon City Tel no.:687-0941/687-1737

Outsmarting Smart

UNTIL Smart remedies its text messaging tie-ups in the United States, the leading cellular phone company may see its lead being steadily chipped away, especially in the Pinoy-rich American market, by its aggressive competitor, Globe.

Globe currently has the advantage over Smart in that it can "text" and be "texted" back by any US-based digital cell phone; Smart, on the other hand, can only receive text messages from but cannot text back any US-based GSM cell phone.

The Globe advantage apparently has not been lost on not a few text-dependent subscribers; while we have no industry figures to rely on, we do have quite a number of anecdotal cases of erstwhile loyal Smart subscribers who have switched to Globe as their primary cell provider, precisely so that they can communicate cheaper and easier with their US-based friends and relatives.

According to A.R. Martirez, Smart head for personal communications and mobile services, the Smart text hurdle lies with the interconnection arrangement with US counterparts.

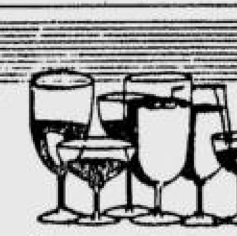
The dominant East Coast-provider Verizon, for example, has "thousands" of switches that Smart is trying to "define" so that they may recognize the Smart numbers whenever the Philippine-based cell phone subscribers send text messages to Verizon subscribers.

We first brought this inadequacy to Smart as early as April 2001. As late as yesterday, we again tried both Smart and Globe cell phones to reach a Verizon subscriber in New York.

Same results. Globe can receive and text back New York. But Smart can only receive but not text back New York.

The same is true as regards to California and the West Coast. Cingular, the dominant West Coast provider, can receive messages from and "text" back to Globe but not with Smart.

COCKTALES



By Victor C. Agustin

Even in Hong Kong, where Smart's parent company is headquartered, Smart cannot send text to GSM phones based in the territory. But neither does Globe.

The quirk this time lies in the "number portability" of Hong Kong subscribers. As explained by Martirez, all Hong Kong cell phone subscribers retain their same cell phone numbers despite being automatically switched over, especially true when roaming within the territory, to another cellular operator.

The text messages from the Philippines fail to reach their intended Hong Kong recipients because "the local switch has yet to be configured to hunt which operator the Hong Kong subscriber may have shifted to," he said.

Road to Baguio

IF you want your faith in Filipino road engineers and the Filipino nation restored, all you have to do is drive up via the rehabilitated Marcos Highway to Baguio one of these days.

There you will see that, when Filipinos put their hearts and minds to doing the right thing, they can build a road of international standards.

Virtually finished, save for a new by-pass bridge, the cemented two-lane road has an adequate concrete shoulder and rain drainage that befit a European road. And like the scenic roads snaking through the south of France, the Marcos Highway also has regular intervals of passing-zone, where the road widens to allow overtaking without the overtaking vehicle crossing over to the opposite lane.

Most important, the Marcos Highway even has an all-weather "tunnel," actually a canopy-covered segment in a particularly landslide-prone section, that effectively landslide-proofs the road, with the falling mud and rocks sliding over the roof and spilling over to the ravine instead of piling onto the road itself.

Now, if only the town officials can prevent roadside stalls, repair shops, and billboards from invading the sidewalks and marring the drive…

Short takes

- GENESIS Hotels and Resorts, the management company controlled by ex-Manila Hotel GM Miguel Cerqueda, has been awarded the management contract of La Union's Cresta del Mar. Genesis now has five hotels under its wings.
- THE COMEBACKING Hyundai is banking on the Santa Fe, the competitively priced SUV that is making inroads in the US market, to further strengthen the beachhead made by its successful gray market entry, the Starex van.

The Korean vehicle manufacturer had been scheduled to formally reenter the local distributorship in time for the Yuletide holidays, but the inauguration of its Makati dealership has been postponed for the first quarter for still unclear reasons.

Heard through the grapevine

EX-ASIANBANK president Edward Go is set to assume the chairmanship of the sequestered United Coconut Planters Bank as early as next week if the takeover talks between Malacañang-PCGG and San Miguel chair Eduardo Cojuangco representatives are concluded to the satisfaction of both parties.

International Exchange Bank president Ramon Sy, meanwhile, has decided to stay on at i-Bank rather than accept an offer from taipan Lucio Tan to head either Allied Bank or Philippine National Bank.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com. The column appears Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.)

Sumitomo invests $20M in First Gen

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

SUMITOMO Corp. of Japan has infused $20 million into First Generation Holdings Corp. in exchange for a 3.81-percent stake in the Lopez-controlled firm.

The deal, formalized on Dec. 20, resulted in an equity valuation of $525 million for First Gen.

Sumitomo is First Gen's second financial investor. In April last year, AIDEC FG Power Corp. Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Asian Infrastructure Development Co. Ltd., invested $40 million in First Gen for a 7.75-percent stake. AIDEC was established in 1995 to help in the financing of private infrastructure projects.

First Gen is the investment arm of First Philippine Holdings Corp. focusing primarily on power generation and other energy-related businesses.

"Sumitomo's investment is part of First Gen's preparation for the privatization of National Power Corp. and (the development of) the downstream natural gas business," First Gen president Peter Garrucho Jr. said.

Garrucho said the firm expected its generating assets to have a total installed capacity of 1,725 megawatts by the middle of this year.

First Gen's concerns include a 60-percent stake in First Gas Power Corp., which operates the 1,000-mw Sta. Rita and the 500-mw San Lorenzo power plants in Batangas.

Both gas-powered facilities make two of three power plants that have supply contracts with the Malampaya gas-to-power consortium.

Also, First Gen has a 37.3-percent stake in the Bauang Private Power Corp., which runs the 225-mw diel-fired facility in La Union.

The firm has a 58-percent stake in Panay Power Corp., operator of a 72-mw diesel-fired power plant.

First Philippine Energy Corp., meanwhile, is First Gen's subsidiary that focuses on new and renewable energy systems.

VMC lays off 380 workers

BY CARLA P. GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Victorias Milling Co. served the other day notices of retrenchment to 380 employees to take effect after 30 days, VMC chief operating officer Arthur Aguilar said.

VMC has 2,446 workers, which management aims to reduce to about 1,600 in line with its rehabilitation program.

The majority of those served notices of retrenchment were workers on the VMC railroad system under the company's cane supply and transport services division.

The management decided to stop operating its railroad system at the start of crop year 2001-2002 because of very high operation and maintenance costs, while only few planters milling with VMC were using it.

Employees of the railroad system and others from the different departments of the company were the first batch of employees to be retrenched this year.

The management will retrench employees by batches depending on the availability of funds, Aguilar said.

Aguilar said the 380 employees would receive their full separation pays, equivalent to one-and-a-half months of salary for every year of service. This will cost the company about P100 million.

He said VMC is doing much better now, pointing out that the P100 million was internally generated by the mill operations.

Foreign brokers dominated trade in 2001

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

FOREIGN brokers dominated last year's trading at the battered local stock market in terms of value turnover. However, some of them were able to register big value turnover only because they unloaded their investments preparatory to their pull out from the Philippine market.

Data released by the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday showed that the top broker for last year was Philippine Equity Partners Inc. (PEP), formerly Merrill Lynch Securities Philippines Inc., accounting for 8.14 percent of the total market volume.

The Filipino management team bought the interest of Merrill Lynch in the Philippine subsidiary last year and continued to execute the transactions of the US investment bank through PEP, which has now become a local brokerage house.

The other foreign brokers that made it to the top 10 list were Regis Partners Inc. (2nd); UBS Warburg Sec. (Phils.) Inc. (3rd); JP Morgan Securities Phils. Inc. (4th); ING Baring Securities (Phils.) (5th), CLSA Philippines Inc. (6th) ABN AMRO Asia Sec. (Phils.) Inc. (7th), Indosuez W.I. Carr Securities (Phils.) Inc. (9th) and HSBC Securities (Phils.) Inc. (10th).

Aside from Merrill Lynch, four other foreign brokerage houses that landed in the list of top 20 brokers last year have plans to close shop or have already shut down their local units. These are Indosuez W.I. Carr Sec., HSBC Securities, Rashid Hussain Sec. (Phils.) Inc. (19th) and GK Goh Securities (Phils.) Inc. (20th).

The other top foreign brokers for last year were ATR Kim Eng Securities Inc. (11th), DBS Vickers Ballas Securities (Phils.) Inc. (13th); SG Securities (Phils.) Inc. (15th); and DBP Daiwa Securities SMBC Phils. Inc.

Five local brokers made it to the top 20 list last year. These were BPI Securities Corp. (8th); UCPB Securities Inc. (12th); Abacus Securities Corp. (14th); AsiaSec Equities Inc. (16th), and AB Capital Securities Inc. (17th).

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, January 8, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	59.5	59	59	510,200
Citystate Savings Bank	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	5,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26	26.5	25	25	666,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	201	201	199	200	26,570
Philippine National Bank	65.5	66	65.5	66	68,400
Security Bank Corp.	16.25	17.25	16.25	17.25	9,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	63,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	40,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1310	1310	1310	1310	1,230
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1050	1050	1050	1050	690
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24	24	24	24	15,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	1,930,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	675	680	670	680	28,590
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	3,500,000
Piltel	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	520,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	430	430	425	425	13,310
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	49,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23	23	22.75	23	93,600
Manila Electric Co. B	33.5	33.5	32	32	269,900
Petron Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.46	1.46	7,658,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.48	2.48	2.42	2.46	3,358,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2	2	2	2	48,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	3,129,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	9,900
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	13,800
RFM Corp.	2.24	2.26	2.2	2.26	561,000
San Miguel Corp. A	43.5	44	43.5	43.5	63,300
San Miguel Corp. B	54	55	54	54.5	173,300
Universal Robina Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	1,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.75	4.85	4.7	4.75	9,244,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.58	1.62	1.5	1.5	388,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.85	0.86	1,020,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	220,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	15,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2	2	2	2	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.52	0.52	53,890,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	1,700,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.16	0.16	370,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.86	0.86	0.85	0.85	100,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	26	26	25	25	206,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.15	180,000
Ionics Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.52	1.6	1.52	1.58	65,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	60,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	3,570,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.29	3,570,000
Music Corp.	0.21	0.22	0.185	0.205	21,360,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	500,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	15,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.35	0.36	260,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	360,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	30,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.0725	0.07	0.0725	500,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.25	14.25	14	14	60,100
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.52	0.49	0.52	410,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	60,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	350,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.5	24.5	24	24	79,800
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.86	1.86	1.8	1.8	206,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	685	685	685	685	50
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	22,000,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	31,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	12,568,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	1,610,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	3,200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	2,000,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.7	1.7	2,230,000
Primex Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	85,000
SM Development Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	6,041,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	2.8	2.95	2.8	2.95	152,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.019	0,019	0.019	0.019	1,600,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	500,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	100,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	16,500,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	7,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000

Unitrust Bank . . .

(From page B1)

seemed irreparable as the former spilled the beans on his former associate's alleged illegal activities. In turn, Ogami accused Inoue, Yuseco and others of embezzlement and swindling.

Ogami himself claimed ownership based on a Nov. 9 letter distributed by Unitrust officers to employees. In that letter, Ogami said he was the rightful owner of the bank because it was he who paid P505 million to Yulo.

"In order to solve the present problems, I ask that all of you follow the instructions issued by me, Genta Ogami, who legally hold the rights, and of Mr. Motohiko Hagisaka, whom I have appointed as president of the bank on Oct. 1," his letter read.

Alien culture

Yesterday, following a news conference of acting Unitrust president and director Jose Apolinario Jr., employees of Unitrust told the INQUIRER of how an alien culture had been imposed on them.

They recounted how they were required to do the following:

- Watch in Louie's THX cinema in Makati a film starring Ogami and local actress Joyce Jimenez titled "Days in the Sun" (The film has yet to be screened locally);
- Make a reaction paper on the movie;
- Read Ogami's book, "The Ten Spiritual Points for Salvation;"
- Make a reaction paper about the book; and,
- Attend an everyday Japanese ritual involving the striking of a gong that signaled the start of a recitation of 10 spiritual points on behavior advocated by Ogami.

The employees also showed the INQUIRER copies of documents given to them on how Unitrust would soon be billed as the "Philippine Bank of Ogami" and an organizational chart with Ogami as chair of the bank.

Posters of Ogami's face were pasted on the walls of every Unitrust branch and documents on how Unitrust would be known as the "Philippine Bank of Ogami" were given to employees.

Nevertheless, Apolinario denied there was a connection between the bank and Ogami. He dismissed the posters as a way of "welcoming" Ogami to the bank during a visit.

Operationally crippled

Apolinario blamed the bank's troubles on Yuseco for approving the retirement of employees and officers of the bank and for the ownership squabble that tore the bank apart.

He said with the mass resignation and retirement of the old officers and staff of the bank, Unitrust was operationally crippled and cash-drained with a total withdrawal of P138 million from Dec. 21 to 28 last year.

"This was actually part of a grand plan to paralyze the operation of the bank to force the new management to rehire them. This was the main reason for the bank run," Apolinario charged.

He said contrary to misguided and unfounded earlier reports, the financial crisis that hit the bank was solely on the basis of mismanagement and illegal activities attributable to Yuseco.

Law of Ogami

For his part, Yuseco said from the time he took over, the Japanese showed their disregard for Philippine banking rules.

"There was only one law: the law of Ogami," he said.

He said shortly after he took over, the Japanese attempted to borrow P170 million in unsecured loans from Unitrust, but the board flatly rejected this. Hagisaka, Ogami's associate, then tried to charge various paraphernalia amounting to P8 million for the so-called Philippine Bank of Ogami, Yuseco said.

He disclosed that he also froze Ogami's personal bank account of P2.4 million after learning that a small loan of P4.25 million was extended to Ogami's Filipina girlfriend. From that time, Ogami stepped up efforts to oust Yuseco from the bank, culminating in the sale of a 20-percent stake held by Montanez, one of the Filipino buyers.

With the situation untenable, Yuseco said he and the people he brought in agreed to resign should Ogami forfeit their salaries net of taxes, gave retirement benefits patterned after Yulo's formula and gave a premium on shares of stocks.

Yuseco also insisted that professional Filipino management come in. On Dec. 21, Yuseco, together with all the senior officers of the bank, resigned from Unitrust and gave effective control and management to Ogami's group, including Apolinario as acting vice president. Apolinario was former vice president of Producers Bank.

Yuseco said he did not expect that the other middle and junior officers and staff desperately wanted to follow them, triggering the mass resignation that bled the bank.

Apolinario himself said he could not fathom why 75 percent of the bank's employees suddenly resigned, indicating their lack of confidence in the new management.

Yuseco said it came to his attention that some senior officers of the bank immediately withdrew P12 million from Unitrust's vault after he and his group left.

Under a cult culture of management that ignores all laws other than that by Ogami himself, Yuseco said, "the best thing that happened to Unitrust ever since Ogami wanted to take control was for it to be placed under PDIC receivership."

GOLFERS
CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF JANUARY 8, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
*1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,500,000	1,400,000
*2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,000,000	
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	725,000	700,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	80,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	125,000	115,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	190,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	380,000	350,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	250,000	200,000
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	375,000	340,000
13. EVERGREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
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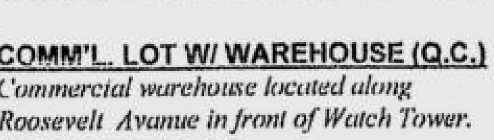

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LA- 1,380 sq.m / FA-1,500
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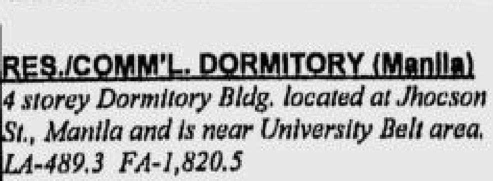

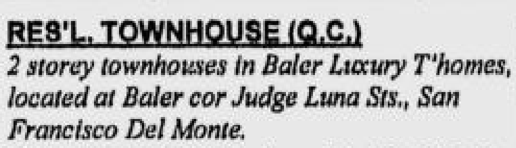

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₱500M seen from new auto rule

THE GOVERNMENT stands to earn only P500 million yearly—not P9 billion—from a new tax regulation redefining automobiles, the Department of Finance clarified yesterday.

In a news briefing, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said Congress would have to pass a law before the government could change the basis of its excise taxes on automobiles from engine displacement to retail price.

This law should give the government around P9 billion a year in tax revenues, he told reporters.

"The P9 billion in additional earnings will come from two steps, including the legislative change, where the bulk of the additional revenues will come from. The redefinition of automobiles should give us a small portion of that," Camacho said.

The redefinition of automobiles would give the government some P500 million in additional earnings, he disclosed.

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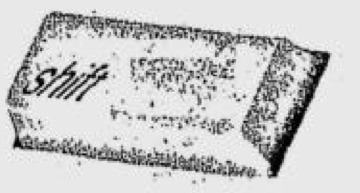

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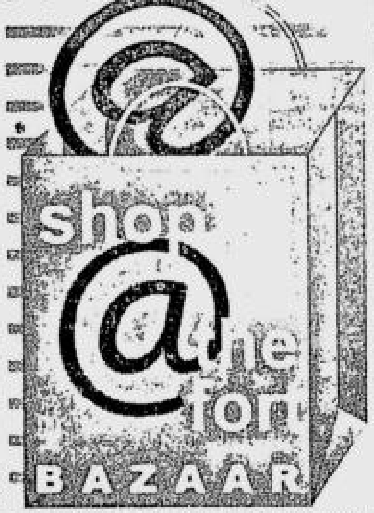

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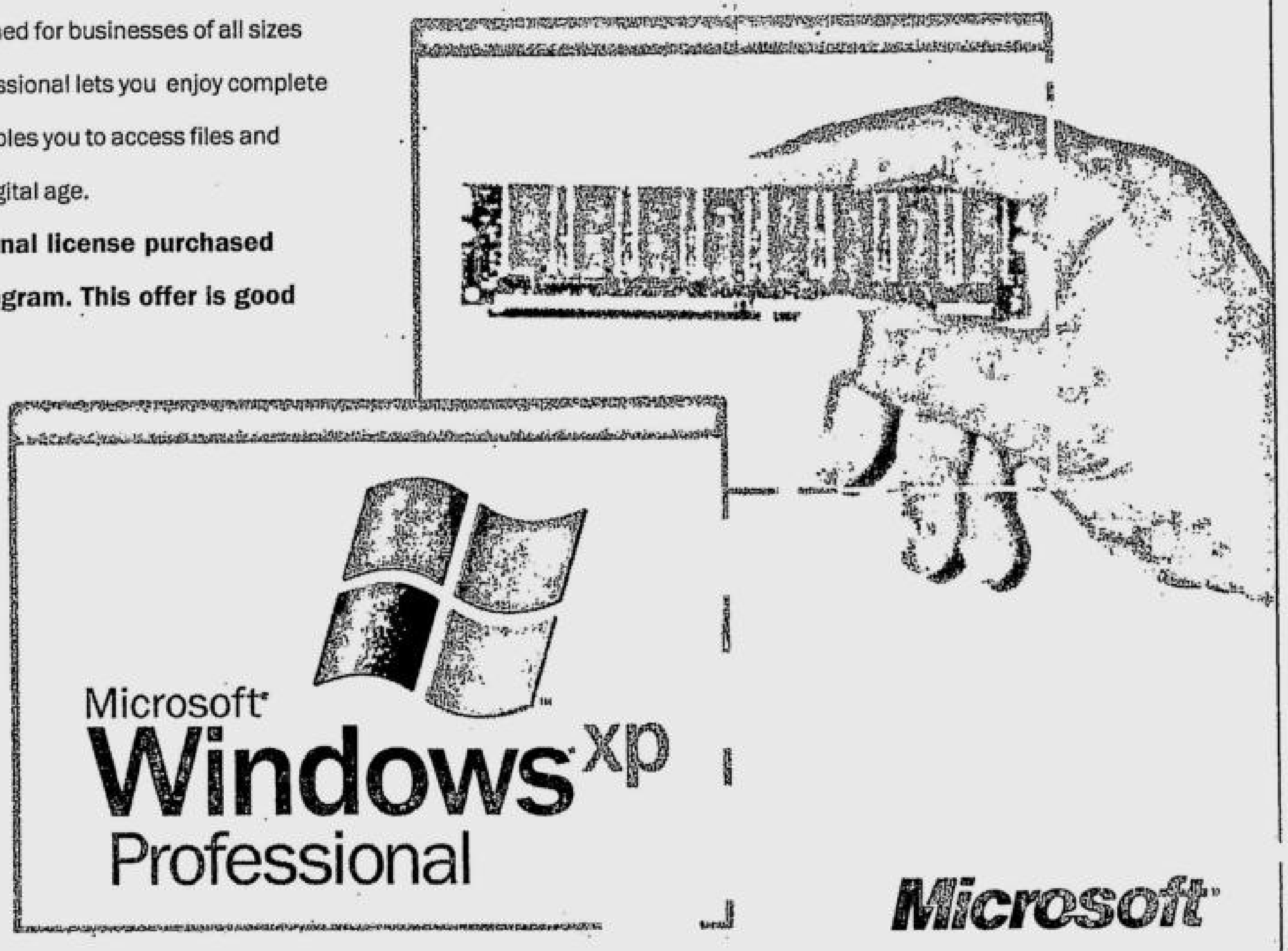

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•98 H100 265T 927-6597•

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96 Besta 2.2 180T 3303315

•98Besta2.7 252T 9276597•

•98Pregio3.0 320T 9276597•

MERCEDES

•98 MB100D P368T 9276597•

MITSUBISHI

EL '94 P155T neg. 2823818

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(OFFICE)
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21 REG. ROOMS
6 CONFERENCE ROOMS
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CARS

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Bnew Van 8261045 8254058

BRIDAL VANS •825-2988•

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8955627

HiAce;L300;BrdalMB;Vans9296250

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

L300 T7411356

StarexMB100HiAce9483535

MB HiAce L3 Urvan 8257135

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2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

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2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

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B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

Buy/Pawn Diamonds 1834 2886

NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL

Announcement of Vacant Positions

4 NUTRITION PROGRAM COORDINATORS - SG-25; Items No. NNCB-NUTPC-11-1998, NNCB-NUTPC-14-1998, NNCB-NUTCPC-13-1998 and NNCB-NUTPC-3-1998; Masteral degree relevant to job; 5 years relevant experience; 32 hours relevant training, 2nd level eligibility.

2 NUTRITION OFFICER V - SG-24; Items No. NNCB-NUTO5-1-1998 and NNCB-NUTO5-2-1998; Masteral degree; 4 year relevant experience; 24 hours relevant training, 2nd level eligibility.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER V - SG-25; Item No. NNCB-ADO5-1-1998; Masteral degree; 4 years relevant experience; 24 hours relevant of training; 2nd level eligibility.

3 NUTRITION OFFICER III - SG-18; Items No. NNCB-NUTO3-16-1998, NNCB-NUTO3-3-1998 and NNCB-NUTO3-9-1998; Bachelor's degree relevant to job; 2 years relevant experience; 8 hours relevant training; 2nd level eligibility.

ACCOUNTANT III - SG-18; Item No. NNCB-A3-1998; Bachelor's degree in Commerce/Business Administration major in Accounting; 2 years relevant experience; 8 hours relevant training; RA 1080 (CPA).

CASHIER III - SG-18; Item No. NNCB-CASH3-1-1998; Bachelor's degree relevant to job; 2 years relevant experience; 8 hours relevant training; 2nd level eligibility.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT - SG-17; Item No. NNCB-EXA2-1-1998; Bachelor's degree; 1 year relevant experience; 4 hours relevant training, 2nd level eligibility.

BUDGET OFFICER II - SG-15; Item No. NNCB-BUDO2-1-1998; Bachelor's degree relevant to job; 1 year relevant experience; 4 hours relevant training; 2nd level eligibility

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER II - SG-15; Item No. NNCB-ADO2-1998; Bachelor's degree relevant to job; 1 year relevant experience; 4 hours relevant training; 2nd level eligibility.

2 NUTRITION OFFICER II - SG-14; Items No. NNCB-NUTO2-3-1998 and NNCB-NUTO2-14-1998; Bachelor's degree relevant to job; 1 year relevant experience; 4 hours relevant training; 2nd level eligibility

DRIVER I - SG-3; Item No. NNCB-DRV1-7-1998; Elementary School Graduate; With valid driver's license; 1 year experience; Training not required, Driver's eligibility.

For further information, please contact Mr. Benjamin C. Formento, Human Resource Management Officer III, Personnel Section, Administrative Division, tel. no. 892-85-75.

(Sgd.) **CAROLINA BAUTISTA-BATALLONES**
Deputy Executive Director

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Market Determined Pricing 2,650 MT (53,000 BAGS) more or less Calrose Rice Variety, Grade No. 1, at the indicative price of:

a. Ex-Warehouse Php P25/kg or P1,250/bag

on **January 16** and **24, 2002** at 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM at the Boardroom, 10th Floor, 101 Matimyas Building, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

A pre-bidding conference shall be held on **January 14** and **22, 2002** at 10:00 AM at the NFA Boardroom. In the pre-auction, interested bidders shall bring the following:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling).
b. Duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities thereto.

All interested bidders shall submit a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in the form of cash, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check from any reputable banks in Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting **January 11, 2002** at DMO OCD, 5th Floor from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. For any inquiries, please call tel. nos. 712-1572 and 712-1708.

Bidding documents will be available on **January 14, 2002** to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. In case of bidding failure, a pre-bidding/re-bidding shall be conducted at 10:00 AM at NFA Boardroom on **January 22, 2002** and **January 24, 2002**, respectively.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI – Jan. 9, 10 & 11, 2002)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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BUYING ROLEX others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

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WE BUY **ROLEX** 5633742 5646593 09174383744

MISCELLANEOUS

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MALE/FEMALE

•ACCOUNTING CLERK•
•MARKETING ASSISTANT•
Submit Biodata, Transcript, ID Photo to: Rm. 505 State Center Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

COMPUTER SUPPORT/ PROGRAMMER AND WEBSITE DESIGNER Needed for full-time work in a well known beach resort in Puerto Galera or Mindoro. Interviews will be scheduled for the 14th of January in Makati City. Call **0917-8398530** for information and scheduled time

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OFC STAFF 9134470 ANNIX

Ofc Staff 9134470 Ms. FE

OFC STAFF Rush9134470 Mark

SECRETARY Comp. literate, fax resume w/picture 522-1905

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

VISA Assistance 4264492

AUCTION SALE

NATION PAWNSHOP, INC Poblacion, Meyc. Bulacan will sell all unredeemed pledges of July 2001 on Jan. 21, 2002 10am - Lanuza & Sons - Auctioneer

WHOLESALE IMPORT-EXPORT COMPANY IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:
1 **Clerk**
Experience not required
2 **Telephone Coordinator/ Telemarketer**
With good presentation skills
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With good communication and presentation skills
FULL TIME: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
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1:30-5 PM/6:30-8:30 PM
4. **Licensed Pharmacist**
Knowledge in Chinese Herbs
For Part-Time.
Interested Parties Please Call:
892-3202, 892-3031and 892-3603
Address: Unit 2411 Herrera Tower
Herrera Street, Salcedo Village
Makati City

PUBLIC NOTICES

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RTW InventorySale 3738821

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the loss of Petron Corp. Stock Cert Nos. 392491, 500shares; 0669411, 127shares, 11909698, 157 shares & 1408988 157 shares under the name of Ma. Lourdes Jaboli Schmid. If no contest rcvd new cert will be issued (PDI 12.26.2001 1/2&9 2002)

We are an established Publisher of Several Trade Magazines.

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to prepare advertising campaigns and strategies, and direct marketing activities and programs. He or she must have worked with reputable firms.

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Qualified applicants are invited to send in their bio-data with recent photo indicating their desired compensation package to:

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Code: QC-2002-10
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Aurora Boulevard corner Oxford Street
Cubao, Quezon City

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For a big Accounting Project

Well versed in MS Office, Excel and in accounting principles and interrelations of accounts, willing to work night shift.

Report for interview at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 12, at Travel Café, G/F PDCP Bank Center, Herrera corner San Agustin Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City with your resumé and transcript of records.

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

Registered Chemist/Mechanical/Electrical

- Male, Single;
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Submit credentials personally at 19D Eisenhower Tower, Eisenhower St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

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Republic of the Philippines
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry & Investments Building
385 Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City

Fax No. 8954024

Tel. Nos. 8976682
8901332

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **BREEDER MASTER INC.** with office address at **Sta. Rosa, Marilao, Bulacan** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as amended as **Expanding Domestic Producer of Agricultural Production (Poultry-Parent Stock DOC)** at a capacity of **844,227 PS DOC** per year with plant site at **Bo. Sampaloc, Tanay, Rizal** has been officially accepted on **January 4, 2002** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 4th day of January 2002.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
OIC-Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI -- Jan. 9, 2002)

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8. Must be able to work individually and as a team

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C. Compensation

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4. Opportunity for rapid growth

Interested parties may submit their complete resumé, references, transcript of records, and 2"x2" color photo to:

Unit 5 City & Land Mega Plaza,
ADB Avenue corner Garnet Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Application must be submitted in person between
9AM to 6PM of Monday to Friday.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax No. 421-2327; 911-6001 loc. 6592
bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the ***UPGRADE OF TWO (2) LANDING SHIP TANKS (LSTs)*** of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of ***Two Hundred Forty One Million Five Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand Pesos (Php 241,584,000.00)*** under the AFP Modernization Program.

Only bids from entities with category "large shipyard" or "medium shipyard" by the MARINA shall be entertained.

Eligibility/Bid documents will be available for issuance starting ***January 9, 2002 (Wednesday)*** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of ***Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (Php 25,000.00)*** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on ***January 24, 2002 (Thursday) at 2:00 PM*** *(local time)* at the *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City*. Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Prospective bidders are allowed to inspect the two (2) LSTs upon purchase of the bid documents until the deadline of submission of the First Stage envelopes.

Deadline for submission of Eligibility/Bid Documents (First Stage) is on ***March 07, 2002 (Thursday)*** at ***2:00 PM*** (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at ***3:00 PM*** at the *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **NARCISO L ABAYA**
Major General AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Jan. 8 & 9, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

The government thru the Department of Finance (DOF)/National Agriculture and Fishery Council (NAFC) has endorsed to NFA the monetization and disposition of the remaining 157,500 MT of imported yellow corn under the FY 2001 PL 480 Title 1 Program of the United States of America.

The corn shall be pre-sold thru Sale Thru Market Determined Pricing (SMDP).

All interested yellow corn users who intend to participate in the bidding should be guided by the following:

1. The volume shall be 157,500 MT yellow corn, disport Manila and Subic.
2. The quality specification is US Yellow corn No. 2 in bulk.
3. The indicative price is set at P7.30/kilo for the commodity. However, offerors shall inform the NFA the point/mode of withdrawal whether:
    a. Ex-FOT bulk
    b. Ex-FOT bagged
    c. F.O. silo
    d. FOW
4. A pre-bidding conference shall be conducted on January 14 and 21, 2002 and the bidding proper on January 16 and 23, 2002 at 2:00 PM at the NFA Penthouse, 11th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City.
5. The bidding shall be open to all legitimate poultry and hog raisers/feedmillers and other end-users who are registered with the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) as corn users as of January 2002.
6. A bid bond equivalent to 5% of total auction offered amount in the form of either cash/manager's/cashier's check/Letter of Credit (L/C) payable to NFA shall be required from interested bidders. The L/C shall be irrevocable at sight and valid for thirty (30) days.
7. The bidding for the 157,500 MT is subject to the Terms and Conditions set forth by the NFA. All interested bidders are required to secure the Terms and Conditions from the NFA at its Marketing Operations Department, 5th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City.
8. The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such offers which in its judgement are most reasonable and advantageous to the Government.

For further inquiries, contact NFA-DMO at telephone numbers 712-15-72; 712-15-64; 712-19-28.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R.A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI Jan 9 10 & 11 2002)

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Administrator's Direct Line: (02) 929-61-07
LWUA E-mail Address: lwua@mozcom.com

INVITATION TO BID

Bids are hereby invited from LWUA-accredited manufacturers/suppliers/distributors/dealers for the supply and delivery of various pipes, fittings, electro-mechanical equipment (including installation) and other water supply materials for various LWUA-assisted projects.

Accredited firms will be notified in writing of the schedule of bidding for the first quarter of year 2002. Bid documents, including specifications for each bidding, will be available two (2) weeks before the scheduled bid opening at the BAC Secretariat, Ground Floor, LWUA Building, Katipunan Road Balara, Diliman, Quezon City.

(Sgd.) **EDWIN T. RUIZ**
Chairman, BAC 2

(PDI--Jan. 8 & 9, 2002)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Market Determined Pricing 31,782 MT (635,640 BAGS) more or less US Long Grain Rice Variety, Grade No. 2, at the following indicative prices:

a. Ex-Vessel	-	Php P16.50/kg or P825.00/bag
b. Ex-FOT	-	Php P17.00/kg or P850.00/bag
c. Ex-Warehouse	-	Php P18.25/kg or P912.50/bag

on **January 24** and **31, 2002** at 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM at the Boardroom, 10th Floor, 101 Matimyas Building, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

A pre-bidding conference shall be held on **January 22** and **29, 2002** at 2:00 PM at the NFA Boardroom. In the pre-auction, interested bidders shall bring the following:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling).
b. Duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities thereto.

All interested bidders shall submit a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in the form of cash, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check from any reputable banks in Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting **January 21, 2002** at DMO OCD, 5th Floor from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. For any inquiries, please call tel. nos. 712-1572 and 712-1708.

Bidding documents will be available on **January 22, 2002** to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. In case of bidding failure, a pre-bidding/re-bidding shall be conducted at 2:00 PM at NFA Boardroom on **January 29, 2002** and **January 31, 2002**, respectively.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI -- Jan. 9, 10 & 11, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
Third Elementary Education Project

PHILIPPINES 2000
Sama Sama sa DECS

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: January 4, 2002
Loan No. 4108-PH
IFB No. PISU-CO/202001

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the financing of Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery of Equipment and Office Furniture to the Elementary Leader Schools (ELS) in the Philippines.
2. The Department of Education (DepEd), Project Implementation Support Unit (PISU) for Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of Equipment and Office Furniture.

Item	Quantity	Item	Quantity
Office Desk and Chair	352 sets	Television and VCR Set with Stand	352 sets
Computer Desk and Chair	352 sets	Audio System	352 sets
Rectangular Table	704 pcs	Overhead Projector	352 sets
Conference Chair	2,816 pcs	Desktop Computer Set	352 sets
		Inkjet Printer	352 sets
		Mimeographing Machine	352 sets

Project or delivery sites are the 352 Elementary Leader Schools located in 22 provinces under the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP). A bidder may submit a bid for one item, two or more items, or all of the items indicated above.

3. For the purpose of this bidding, eligible bidders shall be those who have experience in the supply or selling and distribution or delivery of office equipment to remote areas in a developing country like the Philippines. The Purchaser will grant a margin of preference to goods manufactured in the Philippines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may inspect the bidding documents at or obtain further information from the Office Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for Foreign Assisted Projects, Ground Floor, Rizal Building II, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. Tel. Nos. (632) 636-6542 or 632-1361 local 2115, Fax No. (632) 636-6542. http://www.decs.gov.ph/
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting January 7, 2002 upon submission of letter of intent to the above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00)
6. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
7. Bids must be delivered to the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines, or or before 10:00 AM on **February 19, 2002** and must be accompanied by a security of two (2) percent of total bid price
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 10:00 AM on **February 19, 2002** at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
9. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on **January 24, 2002, 10:00 AM**, at the address indicated in paragraph 8.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO S. PANGAN
Undersecretary
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI -- Jan. 5, 7 & 9, 2002)

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

Successful working mom's secret: 'Happy at home, happy at work'

BY ROCHELLE LEONOR

BALANCING work and family life is no mean feat. To be a mother, a wife and a high-ranking executive all at the same time require dedication, perseverance and commitment.

Marietta C. Gorrez has been successful in doing that. She is a doting mother to four children, a wife to a supportive husband and senior vice president for the Corporate Relations Group of the Insular Life Assurance Co., Ltd. As SVP, she exercises overall responsibility for six divisions—finance, information services, real property, human resources, methods and business process, and legal affairs. "I, together with my teams, service internal customers—those within the company," she explains. She has held this position since January 1999. "On concurrent capacity, I am also officer-in-charge of two marketing units so I also go out and meet clients."

Gorrez is also a board member of Insular. She regularly attends meetings to make sure that the subsidiaries owned by Insular meet their objectives.

Working mom-friendly

When asked whether it's hard to maintain both a closely-knit family and a successful career, Gorrez said that although it's difficult, it is still possible. "Besides, Insular Life is a working-mom-friendly company," she says.

Her work starts at 7 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. It's very seldom that Insular employees work until late at night. "The philosophy of my boss, Vicente Ayllon (CEO of Insular), is that when you're happy with your family life, you bring this to your work. If we stay late at night, our families will not be happy. Family problems or joys will reflect in our work," she explains.

Gorrez has been with Insular for the last 24 years. She first worked in a bank and subsequently moved to the Ayala Group of Companies as a management trainee. She stayed there for a year before she was farmed out to Insular, which used to be a subsidiary of the Ayala Group. She worked under the Corporate Planning Department.

CAREER Tales

Executive competencies

What are the skills needed to be an SVP? "You should know the technical portion. You should know what finance is all about, the general operations," she explains. "Since Insular is a local company, we really have to exert effort to be updated with the market. This is why Insular takes care of its employees training."

Gorrez also adds that a postgraduate degree is a plus. She has an MBA from the La Salle Business School. "*Mas broad ang* perspective *kapag may* MBA *ka*. It teaches you marketing, finance, etc," she says. "Of course, it's still possible to learn the intricacies of business without an MBA but it would take awhile."

However, she maintains that emotional intelligence or EQ is just as important. "You have to know how to deal with your people. You should learn to motivate them," she says. And Gorrez motivates them by constantly being in touch with them. She encourages her subordinates to come to her office anytime. She also calls them every week. *Nangangamusta* is how she puts it. "Especially these days when times are hard for the industry, I really have to encourage them."

And this is one thing she cited when asked what are the challenges she faces as SVP. "What I do is out-of-the-box thinking. I have to be constantly updated by reading a lot of business books and magazines," she quips.

Family time

With heavy responsibilities as an executive, how does she find time to be with her family? "We watch movies every Saturday. We also go out of town to visit my in-laws," she explains. "Since work at Insular finishes early, I have plenty of time to check on my kids and attend PTA meetings and school performances."

She says it also helps to have a supportive husband. Gorrez says that during the few times she can't be there when one of her children gets sick, her husband is the one who brings their child to the doctor. "We have a good teamwork. I reached this level because of a very supportive husband," she muses.

Having a successful career and a loving family, does she still dream of more things in life? "I want to lead a more meaningful life. I want to expand my opportunities so I can touch more lives for God's greater glory," she says. "I want to give back to God what He gave me."

PHOTO BY ROGER MARGALLO

GORREZ

Retrenched employee asks: how can I help myself and the nation?

BY TITA DATU PUANGCO

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I READ about the derailed employee in your September column. Unlike him, I supported myself through my studies. With a lot of courage and determination, I was able to finish two college degrees (a technician course and a degree in BSBA major in Management) and an MBA in my mid-40s. But recently, the company I worked with had two mergers. I survived the first, but not the second, which was done in the name of right sizing or re-engineering. We were paid though. And so in the middle of last year, I was out of a job.

I was simply an operator in an electronics firm. But my job gave me support for my studies and my family. The company had been my bread and butter but it had been bracing for problems like the scarcity of orders from the mother company. I was given three months training in the purchasing department right after I finished my MBA, but retrenchment extinguished what could have been a new career.

Since then I sent lots of resumes and application letters to companies where I thought I am qualified but met with no success. If given a chance, I promise to work full of hope, will, determination, energy and faith just like when I had my first job.

But being an MBA grad somehow enlivens my entrepreneurial spirit. I'm sure I have the skills to manage a business in food or retail if given the chance. Also, I thought that through your column, I, together with others who have a hard time looking for employment, could somehow sit, talk and formulate a system that will utilize our resources, skills and talents.

We could take a chance in business and help ourselves and our countrymen by providing employment, thereby helping our nation. I hope that this voice though small may reach those who in one way or the other have a similar passion or sentiment as mine.

Infinite Desire

I was deeply touched and impressed by your letter. I can see your desire and willingness to work well and with determination. I hope many of our readers who have the capability to give you a job in your areas of expertise will give you the chance you are asking for whether for a regular job or for capital to start the entrepreneurial venture you desire.

I agree completely with you. If you can't find employment, then create your own job or business venture and give employment.

Your being retrenched from your job as operator may be a blessing. You had a job that undermined your capabilities and potential. You have to seek a job that is respectful of the skills and competencies you have earned through your years of study. The purchasing area looks promising, especially if your three months training was on strategic purchasing or supply chain management. Do justice to your skills.

I can also see that you have the courage to confront the facts and to seek out proactively the areas you have control or influence. Retain your innate optimism.

Let me give you a success story to encourage you further. Recently, I met a young man who like you was very discouraged because he couldn't get a job. He attended one of my talks on developing a personal vision. I mentioned in the talk that even if a company has no vacancy but if an applicant demonstrates the right competencies, an employer will create the job to accommodate the person. The very next day, he started to send his resumes again. Then, it happened. His potential employer created a job to suit his qualifications. Now he is happily employed. Recently, he approached me about doing training for his people.

For those interested in the retrenched employee proposal, write us through our e-mail address. All the best and may God bless you and our readers in the New Year.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

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Putting broken leadership back together again

RECIPES for LEARNING

By Moje Ramos-Aquino

WARREN Bennis is "one of the most intelligent, thoughtful and serious thinkers on organizations… Anything he has to say about leadership is worth listening to" twice according to equally eminent organization thinker Alvin Toffler, author of "Future Shock."

Two of the books he wrote, "Leaders—The Strategies for Taking Charge" (co-authored with Burt Nanus) and "On Becoming a Leader," have remained important literature since the 80's to the present, albeit a bible, on the subject of leadership.

Chinese baseball

For our continuing discussion in our Recipe for Leadership, I am quoting here Bennis and Nanus ideas which were written down in the early 80s and are as relevant to our practice of leadership then and now.

"A metaphor for the times we're living in, particularly the managerial environment, is 'Chinese baseball,' as related to us by R. Tsiu. Chinese baseball is played exactly like American baseball with one major exception, and that is this: The minute the ball leaves the pitcher's hand, the fielders can do anything they want… It's crazy—seemingly. And that's the way things appear now, with little reason to expect simpler times in the future."

Indeed! Consider our circumstances today. Except for the fact that we are in this game called life—in an environment called business, family, community—there are practically no rules. What worked last year, last month, last week, yesterday, may not work today. The management models of yesterdays are bursting at the seams. As Dee Hocks describes it, "we live in a chaordic world." The challenge is to recognize patterns and orders in this seemingly chaotic life. And do something about them.

Bennis quotes Abigael Adams who was quoted in her letter to Thomas Jefferson in 1790, "These are the hard times in which a genius would wish to live. Great necessities call forth great leaders." Amen!

Broken leadership

Bennis and Nanus write, "Leadership is a word on everyone's lips. The young attack it and the old grow wistful for it. Parents have lost it and police seek it. Experts claim it and artists spurn it, while scholars want it. Philosophers reconcile it (as authority) with liberty and theologians demonstrate its compatibility with conscience. If bureaucrats pretend they have it, politicians wish they did. Everybody agrees that there is less of it than there used to be. The matter now stands as a certain Mr. Wildman thought it stood in 1648: 'Leadership hath been broken into pieces.'

"At the same time, history effervesces with the names of individuals who have provided extraordinary leadership and risen to the challenges of their eras: Winston Churchill, Mahatma Gandhi, Franklin Roosevelt. Their leadership built great nations. Tom Watson, Edwin Land, Alfred Sloan. Their leadership built great organizations." And, of course, the Mayor of the World, former Mayor Rudolph Giulianni of New York City.

Here in the Philippines, we never run out of leaders. Lapu-Lapu. Datu Sumakwel. Kalantiao. Dr. Jose Rizal. Gat Andres Bonifacio. Apolinario Mabini. Juan Luna. Pio del Pilar. Tandang Sora. Francisco Balagtas, Arsenio Lacson, Ninoy Aquino, Chino Roces. Gregoria de Jesus, Josefa Llanes Escoda and many, many more. They all helped build our country through their talents, art, bolo, code of discipline, patience, determination, future-focus, trust and others. In recent times, we have Eugenia Apostol, Chief Justice Hilarion Davide and many others who have conquered and led their own selves and, therefore, became qualified to lead others. In the business sector, the Lopezes, the Zobel-Ayalas, and the Sys have led and trailblazed in business and are in business to stay.

Faces of leadership

Now, let's have a little exercise. How do you characterize our present environment? What do you think are the significant events in the not-so-recent and recent past and the present that are shaping our world view and our lives today? What effects do these events have in our present life and, maybe, our future?

Who is your role model for a leader? Who is the most important influence in your life? Who had the most impact in shaping your own leadership style? Why? What do you think are good qualities for a leader? What particular thing do they do that qualifies them for the distinction of being called a "leader." What do you think are the values of a leader given what is happening now in the whole world? What important powers do they exude and use intelligently?

Who is the worst leader that you know? Why do you consider them so? What behaviors do they show that tell you they don't possess leadership abilities? What are their not so endearing traits? What knowledge, skills, values and attitudes do they lack? What powers do they abuse?

Please e-mail your response to: *Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com.* This is one exercise we do in the leadership and management programs we conduct. Don't be shocked by the results. We shall publish your answer in this column. Please indicate how you want to be identified.

Let us give Bennis and Nanus the final words: "As we view it, effective leadership can move organizations from current to future states, create visions of potential opportunities for organizations, instill within employees commitment to change and instill new cultures and strategies in organizations that mobilize and focus energy and resources… We are at a critical point in our nation's history and we cannot go back as individuals or as a country to what we were ten, five or even one year ago. The future is now and it's our turn."

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com*)*

How do you survive an entry-level job?

WORKING WOUNDED

By Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: All I can find are entry-level jobs. I'm smart and I've got four years of work experience behind me. Is it too much to ask for a job that uses my mind?

Wasting Away

Did you catch the story recently about Mark Hatterer? He's the York, PA guy who is a hero for rescuing a dog that had fallen into a septic tank. Anyone else would have given Scotty up for dead-but not Mark. He pulled the puppy out, wiped the muck from its mouth, and-you got it-gave him mouth-to mouth resuscitation.

Well, I'm not suggesting you do that level of heroics, but if it was possible to breathe life back into something as unconscious and smelly as Scotty, it's possible to breathe life back into your job.

I've adapted the following tips from Eve Luppert's book, "Rules for the Road" (Perigee, 1998). The book is chock full of tips-106 to be exact-to help anyone stuck in a job that's foul.

1. How realistic are your expectations? Ms. Luppert observes that it will be at least eighteen months before they let you run the company. The only thing you'll get to manage is your expectations! So make them realistic. Expect to do lots of stuff that no one else wants to do—and to do it better than they expect you to do it.

2. Do you ask for feedback? It would be great if bosses knew how and when to give feedback, but they don't. That means you have to initiate the process. Ask your boss regularly to tell you how you're doing. And when she does, don't just listen to the good stuff. Over the long term you'll find the criticism much more valuable.

3. Are you doing the best job you can? According to "Rules for the Road," the best way to get out of an entry-level job is to do it really well. And don't just limit yourself to your job description—see if you can take the next step in each job or function you perform.

4. Do you dress and act for the job you have, or the job you want? When you start to look and behave like a buttoned-up professional, your bosses are apt to notice. So build the image you want to project.

5. Can you be extra nice to yourself when your job isn't? Ms. Luppert suggests that you stay away from bars and alcohol when your job is beating you up. She suggests that you treat yourself to a movie, sleep, a CD or a bubble bath instead. This is an important lesson to learn, because frustration will be a part of your career long after this stinky job is history.

Of course, it's occasionally best to quit a "going nowhere" job. But most of the time it's wise to keep on digging. Who knows? There just might be a puppy in there somewhere.

Weekly Poll:

What is the toughest part of an entry-level job?

—Lack of respect, 25.5 percent

—Mindless work, 34.3 percent

—Low pay, 40.1 percent

Our winning strategy for dealing with an entry-level job comes from Heather H. in Oklahoma City, OK. "In menial, entry-level positions, a lot of paper passes through your hands. Read it! Learn anything and everything you can. It will give great insight into the tone, goals, strategies and overall objectives of your company.

"Then, fake it 'til you make it. Dress as though you are not entry level, when someone asks you to do something menial, act like they are asking for a significant contribution on your self-identified talents and never, ever complain to anyone in your office about anything."

(Send feedback to bob@workingwounded.com*)*

For better management, follow to the letter housekeeping rules

By Angelita Bondoc-Flores

HOUSE management

Keep records, 201 files. Be sensitive to deserving personnel for promotion or possible job re-assignment and review their personal qualities.

Assign the right person for the right job based on his skills and watch their performance. Remove lazy or uncommitted personnel immediately. Explain to the staff when mistakes are made and make them understand how to overcome them.

Anticipate future problems and instill awareness in safety, security, water and energy conservation and be prepared for emergencies. Management should be ready to shift staff job description to suit team production.

Disseminate information and allow staff to be comfortable with each other and the management to avoid fear, which may lead to lying and cover-up.

Listen to the staff on their daily concerns, suggestions and adopt good points. You will be surprised how much there is to learn from them.

Incentives should be given to the staff. There is an art to being firm and sensitive at the same time. Show appreciation and give them a good pat on the back for a job well done, even for small accomplishments. Be generous to deserving staff.

Organization set-up

Prepare in advance daily, weekly, quarterly and yearly schedules. Upon giving the job description, allow the staff to settle to their primary duties and corresponding schedules.

Do time management and shifting for all. Constantly train each staff for different tasks to strengthen second or third reliever in case of absence or resignation, e.g., cleaner to elevator attendant or cook to housekeeper once or twice a week and on specific days.

Uniforms

Have specific uniforms, ideally three sets each for Monday to Thursday. Keep a maintaining level of extra uniforms.

Storage

Label, identify and segregate all items as books are arranged in a library—according to kind and use, for easy access and visual inventory.

Do not use boxes if possible. Instead, use racks and open shelving to minimize time in locating items stored.

Educate your personnel

Continuously train personnel on hygiene, multi-skills, personality, behavior, customer relations, emergency procedures and house rules.

Give simple, explicit and clear instructions to the staff. Always be clear about the goal and explain to each staff their contributions to achieve the goal.

Allow the staff to feel like owners by encouraging them to develop good client interaction. The team should be aware of the activities of the other team leaders and not only of the specific post assigned to each one.

Keep a clear schedule

Start the day with physical hygiene. Identify meal and rest times. Maximize Fridays and Saturdays and avoid overtime even when assigning double duties.

Weekly staff meetings should be conducted and periodic checking of quality of work and schedules religiously done. Identify major and minor responsibilities. Five days should be dedicated to basic duties and one day for shifting, inventory, catch-up and training.

Equipment

Assign use and control distribution of supplies. Have assignee accountability. Ensure that proper tools are made available to make the personnel efficient.

Essential cleaning materials and supplies

Identify description and use of each item. Assign tasks and have one person responsible for distribution and controls by centralized issuance.

Perform a weekly audit and accountability. Standardize all items and costing. Keep a maintaining inventory, identify and segregate items.

Preparation for duty

While on duty, personnel should always be in uniform. Maintain physical hygiene. Think security and safety. Avoid smoking. Maintain teamwork. Be polite and observe silence.

Have concern and care for the property means saving on maintenance costs.

Identify work assignments by area

Scope, manpower, man hours, main duty, and double duty should be identified with daily schedule. Do rotation of duties to maximize skills.

Nothing on the floor

Materials should not be on the floor but neatly above it using racks for easy check.

Get organized!

Wise words for workaholics

By Kathy Simmons

BARBARA was the first to arrive to work and the last to leave. When coworkers asked, "How are you?" her standard response was "busy!" On Mondays, when everyone discussed weekend events, Barbara invariably remarked "I didn't have a weekend—I worked!" She rarely missed an opportunity to draw attention to her crushing schedule.

Imagine Barbara's surprise when she was passed over for a promotion. Naturally, she felt a great injustice had occurred. After all, didn't everyone know how hard she worked? Barbara mistook working hard for working smart. Although her hours were long, the list of results she delivered was short. She consistently missed deadlines and neglected commitments to her customers.

In reality, refusing to set proper boundaries in any aspect of life—including work—inevitably leads to undesirable consequences. In Barbara's case it was a disappointing loss of a promotion. In other situations, it could be a failed marriage or a nonexistent social life.

Root causes

Do you proudly admit to being a workaholic? Think again. You should first consider the root causes of this unhealthy life choice. Then, take the next step of resolving to achieve better balance. The most common root causes for workaholics include:

- Procrastination

Procrastinators lead difficult lives. These are the folks who are always frantically trying to "stay one step ahead of the sheriff." They lack the discipline and foresight to finish unpleasant tasks. Therefore, the to-do stack piles up until it can be ignored no longer. With deadlines looming and adrenaline rushing, procrastinators find themselves working excessive hours to catch up. Crisis management inevitably takes more time than developing thoughtful daily plans that are accomplished logically and consistently.

Catherine Chambliss, Ph.D., Chair of Psychology at Ursinus College in Collegeville, PA offers the following insight, "Procrastinators are often perfectionists, who have never learned to be comfortable deciding that an assignment has been sufficiently completed." Naturally, these unrealistically high standards lead to workaholism, because the finished product never measures up!

Chronic disorganization

Organization is a skill that comes naturally to some, but is a sheer uphill battle for others. Constantly spending time trying to locate important papers in unwieldy stacks of material is not only personally frustrating, it is extremely ineffective when it comes to time management.

Workaholics may be surprised to "find" huge blocks of time in their day once they establish and maintain logical filing systems. Many workaholics have blithely accepted their fate of having to put in excessive hours as "busy professionals" when in fact they are disorganized professionals! Learning some simple organization techniques can greatly reduce both workaholism tendencies and personal stress.

- Warped view of success

Many workaholics are convinced the more hours they are willing to sacrifice above and beyond the call of duty, the more likely they are to be rewarded with promotions. They consider keeping and maintaining regular work hours a sign of noncommittment. Perhaps they were raised in homes that admired total immersion into a job, and described this as a mark of dedication.

The price of success does not include sacrificing balance in your life. Success is achieved when the best results are experienced with the least expenditure of time, money, and anxiety. Thus, workaholics are by nature derailing themselves off the road to success by spending excessive amounts of time at work.

- Inability to make decisions

Fear of failure keeps many workaholics from making decisions. They both put off the inevitable, thus facing unpleasant consequences. Inability to make a decision also indicates a lack of confidence. If people trust their instincts, and work in an environment that tolerates mistakes, they will make decisions more quickly. Indecisive workaholics find themselves working extra hours to compensate for untimely decisions. Solving problems only when they become emergencies is always more time-consuming—not to mention more stressful.

Time to change style

Now that you know some common reasons for the malady of workaholism, it's up to you to change your style.

According to Peggy A. Stock, president of Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, "The greatest danger of being a workaholic is that the goal becomes simply doing things just to get them done—activity for activity's sake." Stock advises the most important questions you can ask yourself at the end of the day isn't "What did I do?" but "Did I do the right things?"

To place all your focus on anything—including work—is not admirable or smart. Wearing the badge of workaholic may seem more honorable than "procrastinator" or "disorganized employee," but these may in reality be the real issues. Take some time for self-examination. Rather than spending countless hours in the office, begin working hard on creating more balance in your life.

(Reprinted with permission from www.careermag.com)

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The friendly folks at DHL Worldwide Express have asked me to announce that their telephone numbers will change at the beginning of the New Year. Lots and lots of exciting things are happening at DHL, including a fleet of new trucks, new uniforms and five new Customer Service Centers that'll make your life even easier when sending all those goodies overseas.

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8 Ang deadline ng pag submit ng entries ay sa January 31, 2002 [illegible]

9 Ang raffle ay gagawin sa February 8, 2002, sa Seaoil Petroleum Corporation Head Office, G/F Mender Building #29 Annapolis Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, in the presence of a DTI representative [illegible]

First Prize 1 Toyota Revo DLX Diesel 2000 Model (excluding all registration requirements)
Second Prizes 3 Kawasaki HD-125CC Motorcycles (excluding all registration requirements) para sa 3 winners
Third Prizes 5 Internet Highway Ready PC's para sa 5 winners, complete set w/ monitor, cpu, cd rom and modem
Consolation Prizes 10 Mobile Phones (Nokia 3310, units only) para sa 10 winners

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3 KAWASAKI HD3 125 CC MOTORCYCLES

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ROBERTO "Nono" HONTIVEROS TIROL

of Ibajay, Aklan and Iloilo City

peacefully joined his wife Gloria Jesena Lorca Tirol
to be with our Lord on January 8, 2002 at the age of 93.

His bereaved ***children,*** **Ruth Tirol Cocjin** and **Federico Jarantilla, Cecilia** and **Pedro Javelosa, Marilou** and **Greg Sanson, Bobby** (†) and **Maricel, Ciriaco** and **Cynthia, Anna Marie.**

Grandchildren, **Joebert** and **Susan Cocjin, Juliene** and **Freddie Javellana, Johnny** and **Sallyvic Cocjin, Joel** and **Eileen Cocjin, Jake** and **Marlu Cocjin, Josephine** and **Topy Lozano, Maggie** and **Mark Rivera, Diane** and **Abet Jimenez, Cecile** and **Randy Hortillas, Albert** and **Therese Sanson, Rita Sanson, Martin** and **Annette, Zharina, Francis** and **Daniel Tirol, Alan** and **Tracy, Nicole** and **Chantel Tirol.**

Great-Grandchildren, **Bambam, JJ** and **Erica Cocjin, Jennifer Javellana, Enzo, Sally-Ann** and **John-John Cocjin, Jason** and **Erin Cocjin, Ria** and **Francis Cocjin, Justin** and **Jolene Lozano, Patrice Rivera, Adrianne** and **Albertine Jimenez, Patrick Hortillas, Neo Sanson** and **Gabriel Tirol.**

His ***sister,*** **Epifania Tirol Ringor**

His loyal caregiver, **Saning**

Request all those whose lives he may have touched to pray for his eternal repose.

His remains will lie in state at his residence in Quezon City until Thursday, January 10 and will be brought to Iloilo on Friday, January 11. Interment will be at Christ the King Memorial Park, Iloilo City on Sunday, January 13, 2002.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."
Psalm 116:15

ANGELA CABRERA ABELLERA

of Baguio City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on January 7, 2002 at the age of 92
at the St. Louis University Sacred Heart Hospital, Baguio City.

She is survived by her sons **Ernesto Jr.** and **Benjamin**; daughters **Angela L. A. Blair (Lennie), Lourdes I. A. Hamada, Fe A. Gochuico, Helen A. Smith,** and **Jeanette C. Abellera**; daughters-in-law **Carmencita R. Abellera** and **Victoria G. Abellera**; sons-in-law **John E. Blair, Stephen M. Hamada, Jimmy F. Gochuico** and **James B. Smith**; grandchildren **Mark, Gillian** and **Denise, Johnny, Jimmy, Jeremy** and **Jenny, Lou Ann, Gema, Gianina, Natalie** and **Rachel**; and sister **Sor Cecilia Cabrera**; we rejoice that she has joined her Lord and Maker.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Baguio City.

Interment will take place on Saturday, January 12, 2002 at the Pyramid Memorial Park, Kias, Baguio City after the necrological services at 9:00 a.m.

Our Dearly Beloved

RAMON R. GONZALEZ, SR.

July 11, 1933 - January 4, 2002
Died at the age of 67.
Formerly DBP Asst. Manager, Housing Loan Department

His bereaved family, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel C, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on January 11, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

Whoever serves Me must follow me, and where I am, My servant will be.
John 12:26

Message of thanks

We, the family of the late

DR. MACARIO AGUILERA MEDRANO

of Ibaan, Batangas

who joined his Creator
on December 24, 2001

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who condoled with us in our moment of grief.

Fiscal Ireneo B. Geronimo

of Pasig City

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 8, 2002
at the age of 90.

His bereaved children **Essie** and **Noly, Abelardo** and **Ester, Emma** and **Arthur**; grandchildren **Larry** and **Ibeth, Recto, Lorrie** & **Jerome** and great grandchild **Lorenz**; nephews, nieces and other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The body lies in state at Garden of Memories Chapel (beside the ICP church).

Interment will be at Pasig Catholic Cemetery on January 10, 2002, after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Conception Church, Pasig City.

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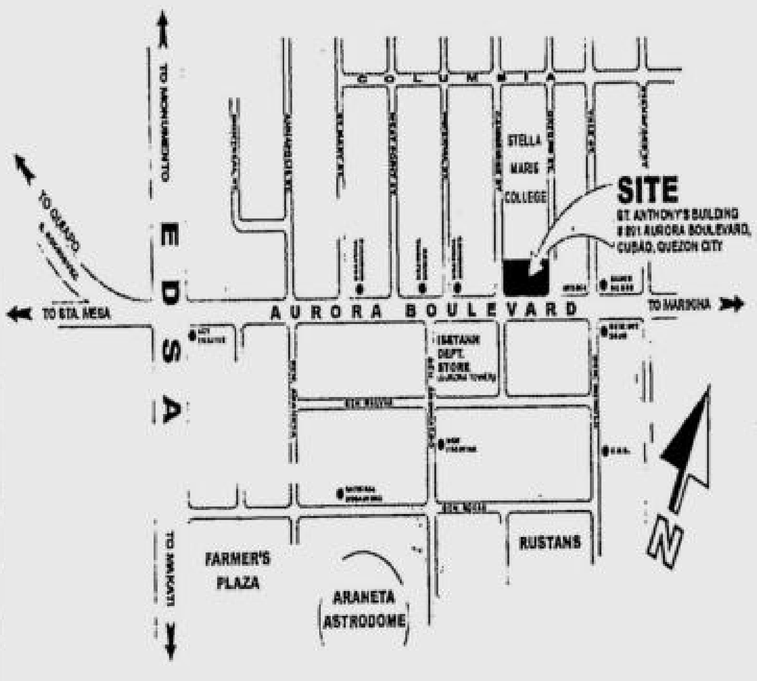

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

The B-sure gold rush continues at pinoymail.com

AFTER a successful launch at pinoymail.com recently, the B-sure online insurance protection plan continues to open doors of opportunity.

A housewife who availed of the B-sure product said, "With B-sure, it is easy to supplement my family's income. I can shoulder some of the expenses at home, like the kids' tuition. I can be a mother and part-time entrepreneur as well without having to leave the house. This is exactly the kind of business I've been looking for."

Having read from a newspaper about the B-sure personal protection plan and the opportunity to earn as much as P9.8 million, she logged on to pinoymail.com immediately and became a B-sure policyholder. Although she was not used to making an online purchase, she found that the B-sure system was amazingly easy to use and very user friendly. Through multilevel networking, the B-sure members earns referral fees.

This is done without the traditional sales talk, phone calls, product presentations. There are no logistical problems normally associated with multi-level marketing products like inventory or transportation problems. Everything from registration to payment, to tracking your network and income, is done on the Net. Even for newcomers to computers, it has been so simplified that everybody becomes a marketing wizard within minutes.

A college student who also availed of the product was glad because besides making some extra allowance for himself, he found that the system helped him develop entrepreneurial skills that would stand him in good stead in the years ahead.

Another B-sure policyholder is a veteran networking practitioner. He was very impressed with B-sure for introducing him to a new aspect of networking that he had not appreciated before – that of working smart. Previously he had to organize business opportunity meetings and training seminars for his group and constantly motivate them through meetings. He wasted time on the road and constantly tried to help people overcome fears of making a sales presentation. Now he realizes that with B-sure, there would be no more hard selling, no more long commutes. He is now a much more efficient networker than he ever was.

Richard Dayrit, business development manager of B-sure, says, "There are still opportunities for people out there to earn. To become a policyholder, you only pay P600 premium, which entitles you to a 12-month insurance policy payable in the event of accidents. The amount of benefits payable in the event of accidents is up to P550,000. Through B-sure, you may earn up to P9.8 million or more and the chance to win the grand prizes like a mountain bike, Nokia 3310 cellphone, Palm Pilot, among others.

"Once you become a member, you can earn more income by referring friends. Just click on our 'Invite your friends' link. When invitations are sent through this system, and your friends sign up, it tracks and monitors the process and automatically your friends' registration will be credited to you as the sponsor."

There is a convenient online payment module that members can use to effect fast and secure payments online. The B-sure website was certified by Verisign – members are assured of confidentiality of their information. For inquiries, visit the B-sure office at 448 Ferigate Building, Edsa, Makati City or call (632) 899-1431 during office hours or send messages at mail@b-sure.com.ph.

MegaMillion

PLDT SWEEPSTXT 135 MEGAMILLIONAIRE IS A 12-YEAR-OLD

Bethel Joy P. Nessia (center), a 12-year-old from Cainta, Rizal was the lucky grand prize winner of the recently concluded MegaMillion SweepsTXT 135 promo, PLDT's first landline text-based promo. Nessia won the P1-million grand prize plus a jackpot of over P116,000. At the grand draw awarding ceremonies were (from left) Grace Miranda, product specialist, PLDT local services/features; Cecille Marino, senior product manager, PLDT local services/features; Minda Grace Nessia, mother of the winner, and Marissa Balmaceda of Lowe Lintas and Partners.

NEW VJS

Derek Ramsey and Anna Shier are this year's winners of the Mentos Freshmaker VJ Award during the MTV VJ Hunt 2001. Fun, fresh and full of life, these two wowed the judges at the awarding night held at the Megastrip of Megamall. Aside from winning the Freshmaker VJ awards, both also went on to win the actual MTV VJ Hunt and shall be given three-month contracts with MTV Asia. Both were part of the 10 finalists who made it from a nationwide search. Derek is an image model and a TV host while Anna is a print and commercial model as well as a former Miss Philippines Minnesota.

A pretzel like no other

YOU loved the crunch of Nagaraya Cracker Nuts. Now, it's time to enjoy the "bite" of a different Nagaraya.

Introducing Nagaraya Sweet Mini Pretzels, a pretzel stick like no other. It has that distinct "bite" that doesn't just crumble when it goes into your mouth. The crispiness of this new treat gives you loads of ways to enjoy while eating and shows you what a real pretzel stick is all about.

You can sweetly nibble on it while talking to your girlfriend on the telephone, gnaw nervously on it while watching your favorite PBA team going into overtime, voraciously chomp on it during recess time, slowly suck it dry while lounging around on a slow Sunday afternoon, secretively nip on it after exercising in the gym or snap it while surfing the Nagaraya website www.nagaraya.net.

What's more is that you have two Nagaraya Sweet Mini Pretzels flavors to choose from—chocolate and sugar-coated—which are certain to satisfy anyone's sweet tooth.

There are thousands of ways to enjoy the Nagaraya Sweet Mini Pretzels, and just like the Nagaraya Cracker Nuts, it breaks the hand-to-mouth monotony of snacking because it goes beyond just taste, it's an experience.

KLM OUTLOOK FOR RP TOURISM LAUDED

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon (right) gave a warm handshake to Joey Laurente of KLM Royal Dutch Arlines recently for the airline's response to Gordon's unflagging efforts to stimulate more arrivals of businessmen and tourists from overseas. Inspired by Gordon's appeal, KLM announced to its world clients and frequent travelers from Europe, Americas and the Middle East an increase of KLM's weekly flight services to Manila from four to five flights a week last October. To ensure the success of its bold and strategic decision, KLM is expected to intensify promotions of Manila as a major Asia destination of KLM. Among others, the airline is expected to stress its unmatched 50-year RP tourism experience substantiated by its record as 'World's 1st Airline of Europe to serve Manila after World War II'.

OMEGA
OMEGA

OMEGA AT 'DISCON 2002' LAUNCH

Omega, the timepiece known for style and precision, recently lent support to the Rotary Club of Makati District 3830's 'Discon 2002', participated in by noted Rotarians mostly from southern Metro Manila. During the event, Omega mounted a display booth that highlights Omega's latest styles and collection that have been known both for their precision and stylish looks. An Omega Constellation watch was raffled off to highlight the annual district conference. Shown are the participating Rotarians (from left) Rotary Club of Makati North president Federico Sevilla Jr., General Ismael Villareal, Rotary Club District 3830 governor Ernesto Salas, Kate Tuazon, Renato Magadia and Jose Cortes, Jr.

British Embassy appoints new warden in Iloilo

THE BRITISH Embassy has appointed a new warden for the city and province of Iloilo. Embassy Second Secretary Neale Jagoe presented former Royal Hong Kong police detective superintendent Joseph McMahon with his letter of appointment in Iloilo City recently. Foreign and Commonwealth Office official Carol Hinchley, and the FCO's historical advisor, professor Kathleen Kazer, both currently visiting the Philippines, witnessed the ceremony.

The British Embassy's Warden network covers most of the Philippines. Wardens act as point of contact for the local British community in times of emergency, and often perform vital consular work in more remote areas.

British Charge d'Affaires David Campbell said, "We are delighted that someone of McMahon's experience and standing in the community has volunteered his services as an Embassy warden. Wardens are a vital link between the British community and the Embassy. We are always looking to expand the network so that more of our nationals across the country will have an immediate and accessible point of contact in an emergency. And it is particularly appropriate that we have now expanded the network to cover Iloilo City, where Nicholas Loney, the founding father of the sugar industry, established the first British consulate outside of Manila so many years ago."

British consul Ian Sargeant added, "British nationals are encouraged to contact me at the Embassy at any time, both to register themselves, and to find out who their local warden is. Don't wait until there's a crisis."

McMahon, who served for over 25 years in the Royal Hong Kong Police, and previous to that in HM Forces, can be contacted by British nationals in Iloilo at (033) 523-8212.

NO TOBACCO SALE TO MINORS

Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos receives from Sanggunlang Kabataan (SK) chair Adeleen O'S Bea a copy of the proposed ordinance that prohibits the sale of cigarettes to minors during the nationwide launching of the Youth Smoking Prevention (YSP) program recently as one of the highlights of the National Youth Week. More than 100 SK chapters nationwide have filed similar ordinances. Led by the SK National Federation, the YSP is supported by Philip Morris Philippines Inc. (PMPh) and the Philippine Jaycees. Also shown are the other SKNF officers, Jaycees and PMPh officials led by SKNF president Richard Alvin Nalupta and Mandaluyong Councilor Cherry Lynn Pablo-Santos, who co-sponsored the SK ordinance.

ADVANCE VSX

SHELL ADVANCE DAVAO LAUNCH

Davao City recently welcomed the launching of the Shell Advance S4 and VSX4 motor oils for four-stroke motorcycles. Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. vice president for commercial Romy de Guzman (standing, second from right) welcomed guests to the fun-filled event. Also shown are celebrities Patricia Javier (standing, third from right), Jolet Jao (kneeling, right) Norman Mitchell (behind Jolet Jao) and Jovy Saulog (kneeling, left) who posed onstage with Shell officials. Shell Advance S4 and VSX4 are superior oil formulations recently introduced in the Philippine market.

BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE FIRST MENZI BIOGRAPHY COPIES

Lawyer Manuel Montecillo (left), executor of the Hans Menzi Estate, and Peter Go Pailan (right), chair of the Menzi Trust Fund Inc. and the Menzi & Co., Inc. did the honor of presenting the first copies of 'From Earth to Sky: The Life and Times of Hans Menzi' to selected beneficiaries of the Fund during the book's launching at the Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club. These were (from left) research fund grantee Dr. Ma. Concepcion Lizada of the Asean Post-Harvest Research and Training Center at UP Los Baños; former MPRT scholar Mark Aguila; Dr. Marita Reyes, president of the UP Medical Foundation; professor Ellewellyn Pasion, recipient of the Hans Menzi professorial chair at the UP College of Medicine; and MPRT scholar Noe Jude Peñas, Jr. Copies of the book were also donated to the colleges and universities with MPRT scholarships such as Ateneo De Manila University, Don Bosco Technical College, De La Salle University, San Beda College and University of the Philippines. 'From Earth to Sky' is exclusively published for the use of the Fund and the Menzi Group of Companies.

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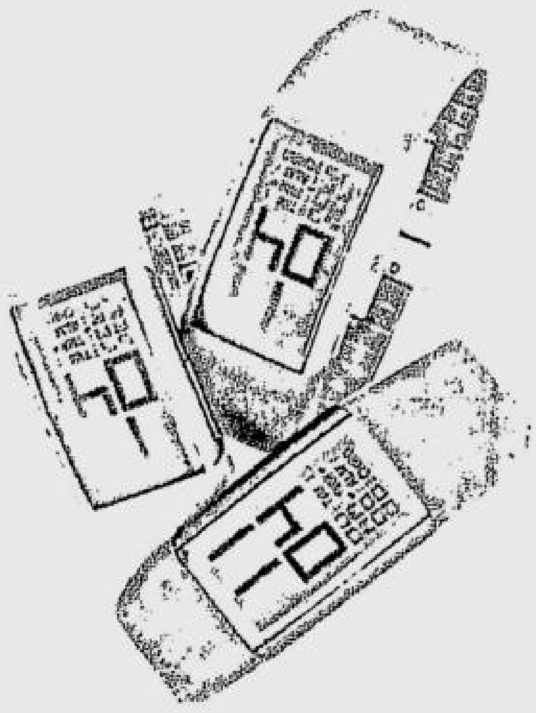

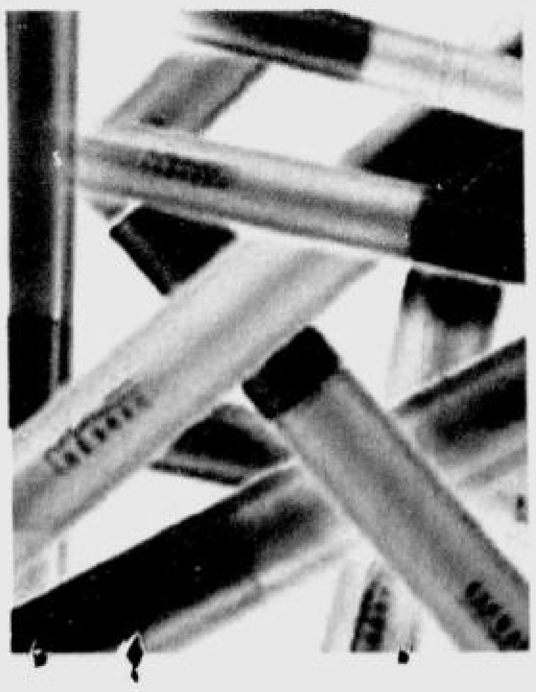

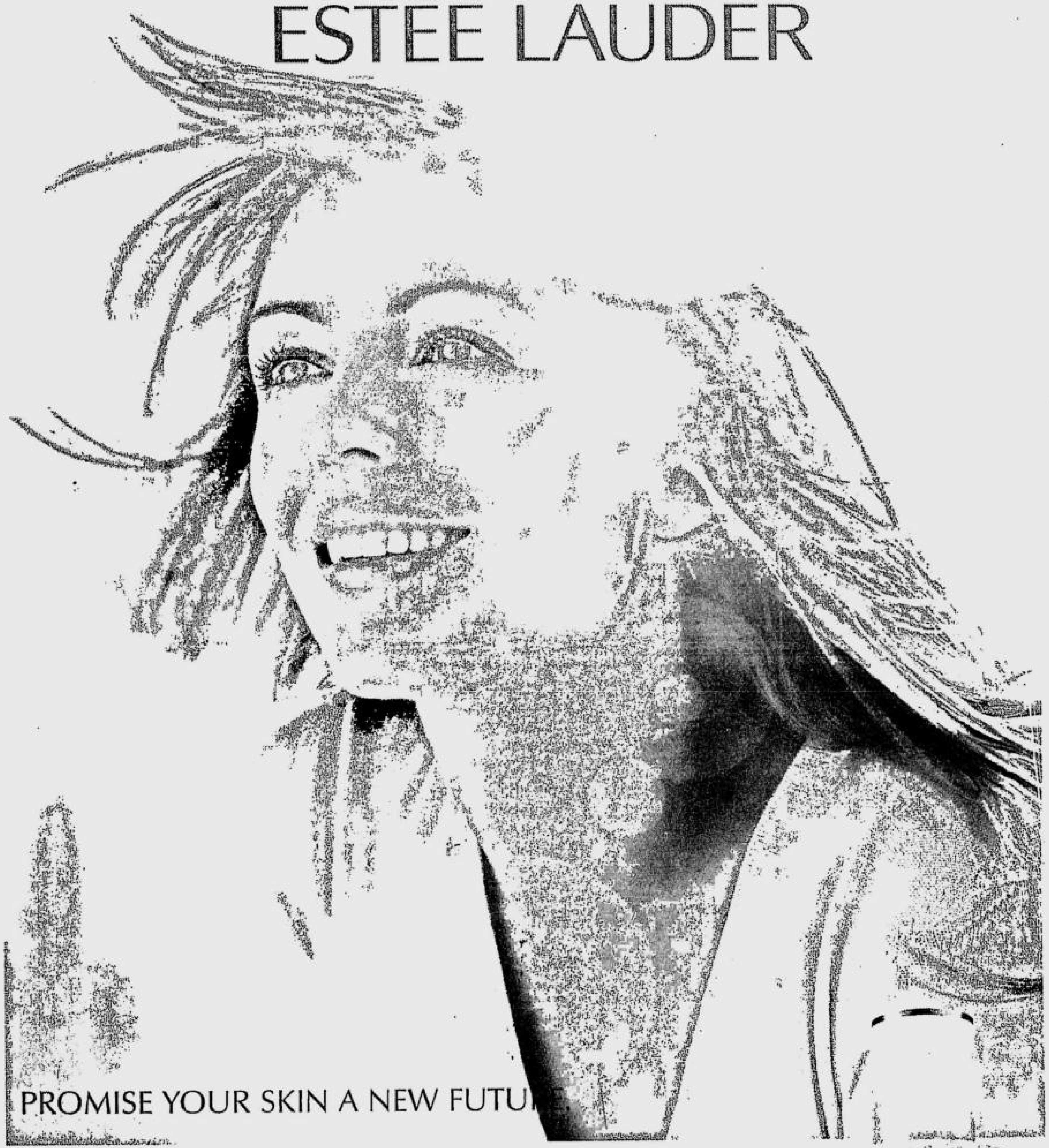

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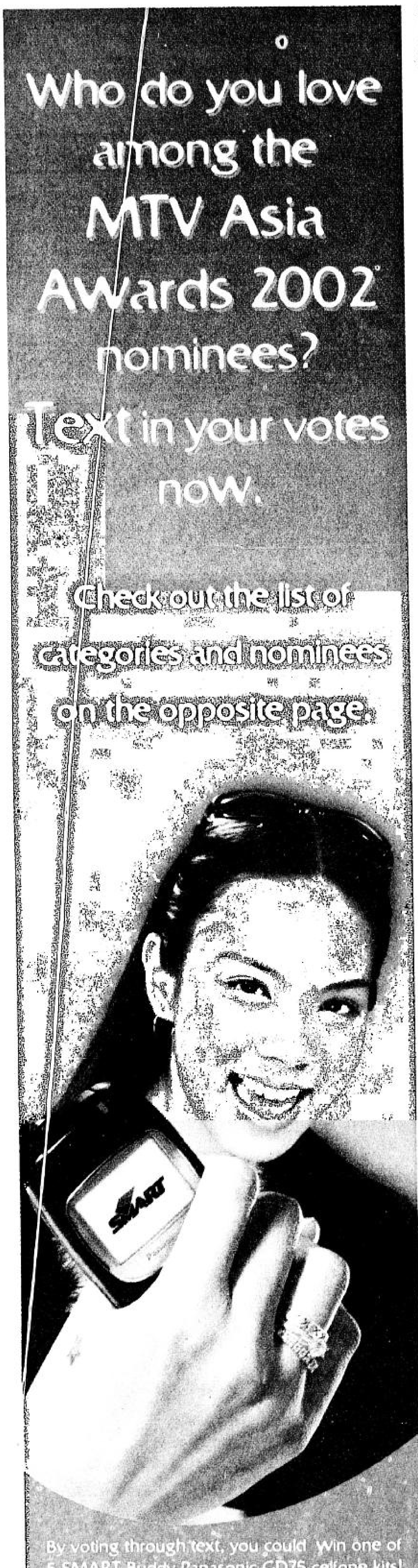

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How strongly do you feel about your favorite artists? Let them know, by texting in your votes to the MTV Asia Awards 2002, to be held in Singapore on February 2, 2002. You can vote as many times as you like, in any category. And each vote gives you a chance at winning a new SMART Buddy celfone! Your vote really counts! Voting period is until January 19, 2002. So, vote wisely for your favorite artists now!
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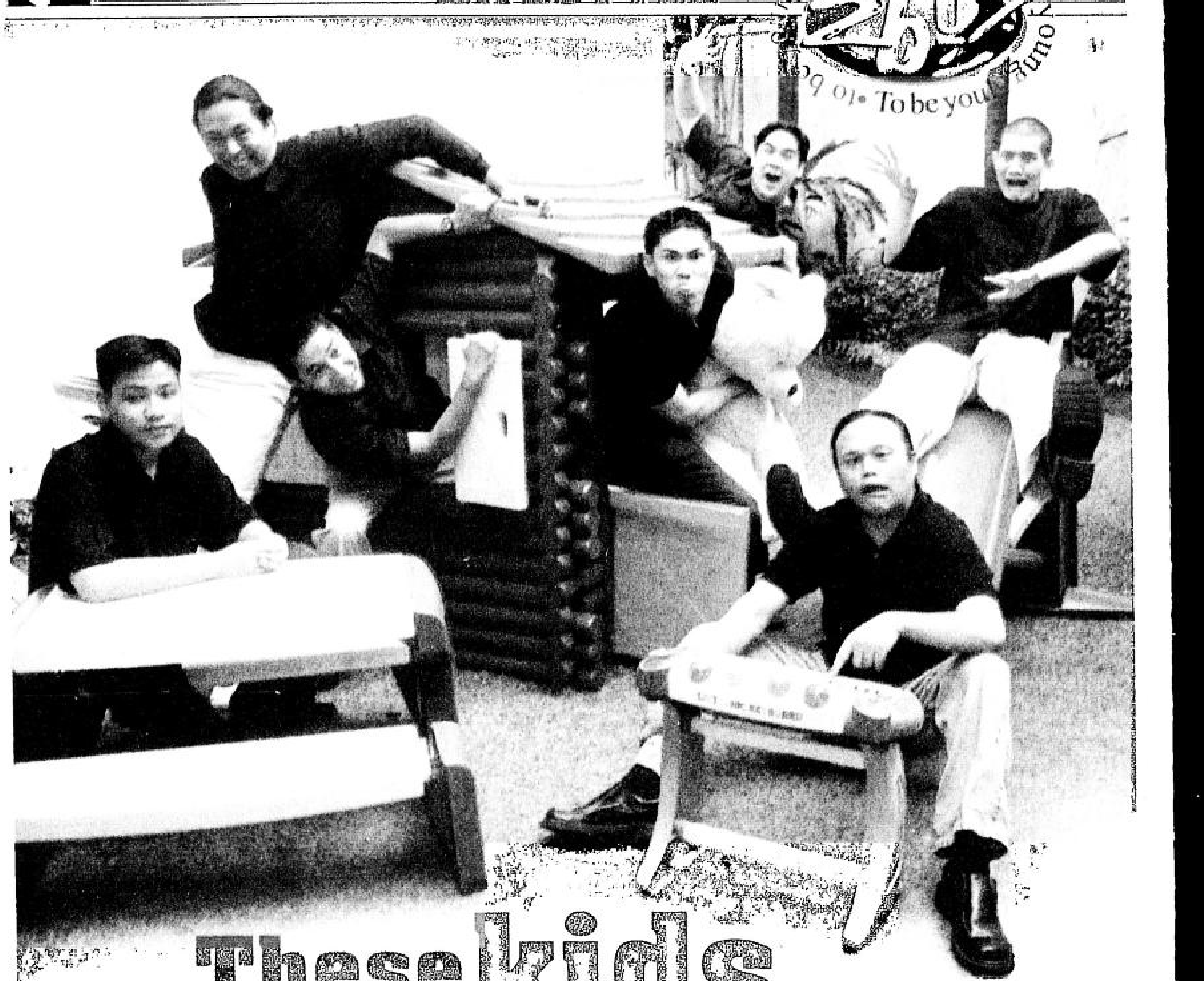


These kids will rock you, 'a cappella'

By Franco C. Mabanta
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Betoy Johnson

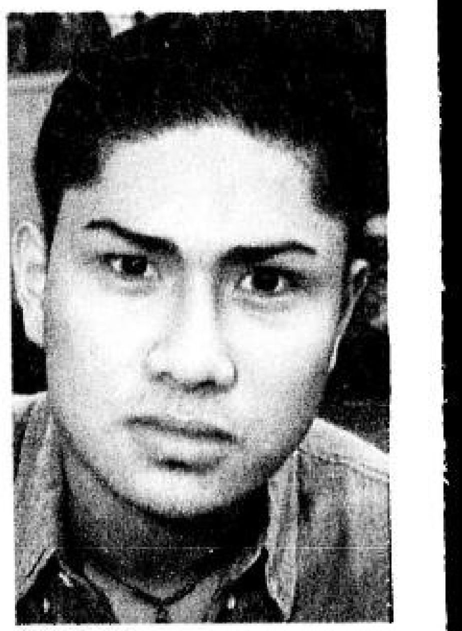
THESE days, music has turned into a war of clichés. Thousands of musically inclined men, women and groups aspire to be stars, not artists. The result: copycats, stereotypes, unoriginal and uncreative sound, pure monotony.

What happens to the listeners? They get bored. They listen to the same type of music over and over again only in different forms. Rage Against the Machine pioneered the rap-metal genre. What followed? Limp Bizkit, Linkin Park, Crazy Town, P.O.D., Kid Rock. Locally, we've got Cheese, Sandwich, Greyhoundz, Slapshock. Boyzone restarted the boy-band craze (after New Kids on the Block and Take That), the Backstreet Boys popularized it, N'Sync made it a phenomenon. Today, there's 5ive, A1, O Town, Human Nature, Take Five, LFO and a lot of other names consisting of letters and numbers. Here in the Philippines, there are the Wise Guys, 17:28, Pwet-4-All (God save the soul of the guy that came up with that name).

It's unarguable that several of these artists—no matter what type of music they play—can produce very interesting, sometimes amazing, sounds. That's why many artists are imitated in the first place. The catch is that the same interesting and amazing sounds are produced by the others. There's no diversity and uniqueness. That's why Nelly Furtado, Paula Cole, Moby, Incubus all hit stardom without having to look pretty. They were able to spawn their own sound in a world that always went with the flow. They dodged the trend and made musical statements that belonged to them.

ROBI Joseph

JIN de la Cruz



MIKE Salomon

Enter the Akafellows, an underground all-male Filipino group composed of seven talented men from different age brackets and upbringing that was formed less than a year ago.

The group boasts of the great interpretations of modern and classical music sung in magnificent six-voice harmonies. The remarkable thing is that they sing with absolutely no instruments or minus ones. It's just them. The background, the bass, the beats. No special effects, no equipment, no machines. Just voices. A cappella.

So when they render songs as the ever-popular "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang" and the classic "In the Still of the Night," you won't hear a backup band. All you'll hear is vocal unison at its finest.

The group performs at private functions such as weddings, birthdays, Christmas parties, reunions, university concerts, social affairs, company events and grand occasions. Word of mouth has made the Akafellows an in-demand group.

The man behind the group's success is Arnold Calpe, 29, the musical director. His sheer love of music—specifically the a cappella genre—made him look for talents to form the group.

The members include Justin "Jin" de la Cruz, 28, base 2, who is taking up communications at the University of Asia and the Pacific; and Robi Joseph, 21, tenor 2, who sings with intensity and immaculate smoothness (he is studying computer animation in Cyclone Asia).

There is also Mike Salomon, 18, beatboxer and senior from La Salle Greenhills, who has the uncanny ability to generate an uncountable number of sounds with his mouth that become the beats and special effects in the songs. In other words, he's a human drum machine.

Ikey Canoy, 21, tenor 1, is another theater professional. Set to pursue his masters at the UA&P, he possesses a fantastic falsetto and a booming voice with an extensive range.

Jheremy "Rhed" Sandico, 23, tenor 1, owns an angelic voice that is light as a feather, while Karl Villuga, tenor 2 and the youngest member of the group, has a voice that is breathtaking; he is sometimes called by pals as "the male Mariah Carrey." An honor student at La Salle Greenhills, he's only 16.

They call themselves brothers, and when their voices unite, the outcome is nothing short of sensational. Asked about their dream, Jin answers, "To be the premiere upbeat contemporary a cappella group in the country."

It seems clear they have a fighting chance to achieve that.

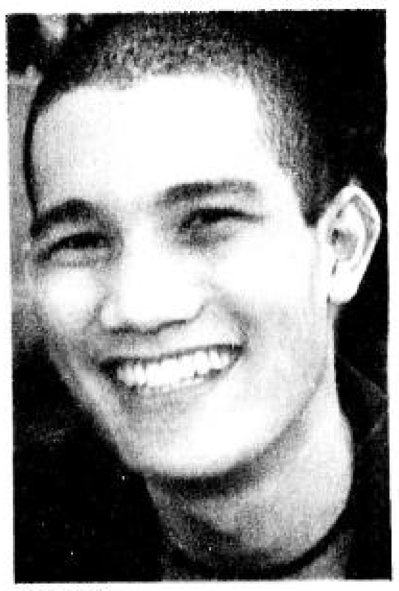
For inquiries about the group, call Arnold Calpe at (0919) 767-3169

> Akafellows have won a steady following with their soulful renditions of popular and classic hits, sans a backup band

ARNOLD Calpe

RHED Sandico

KARL Villuga



IKEY Canoy

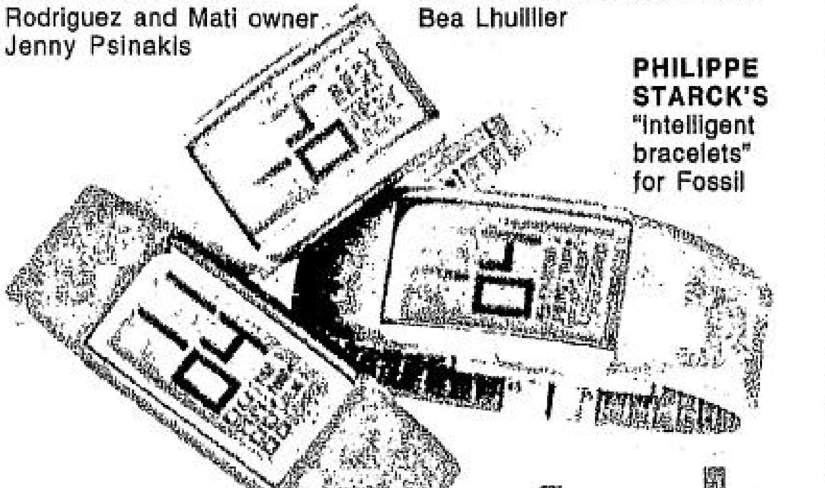
SPARTAN style of Miguel Rosales and Bea Valdes

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

WATCH IT, SUGAR. Model embraces Pam Pamintuan with his Philippe Starck

GREEK TO US. Archie Rodriguez and Mati owner Jenny Psinakis

MATI mates Jean Henri and Bea Lhuillier



PHILIPPE STARCK'S "intelligent bracelets" for Fossil

G SPOTTED. Cary Lagdameo and Giselle Tongi

MATI MATCH. Manu and Agot Sandejas

MOST ELIGIBLE. Ricky Delgado with Audrey Chiu

MATI'S MOST. Boompy Martel and Raffy Ladao

IT girl of all seasons Ching Cruz spotted at Mati

HIGH TIME. Clinton Palanca's book is "to be savored." Go and grab a copy at the city's best bookstores.

BEADED bombshell at C Club

PEARLY SHELL. Hong Kong look-alike of Toni Leviste wears Cacharel top.

MATERIAL WORLD. Hong Kong young artist receives a collection of eight Philippe Starck with Fossil timepieces.

"**WHEN** I think about you I touch myself..." Model displays Starck with Fossil's latest.

CAN CAN you do this?

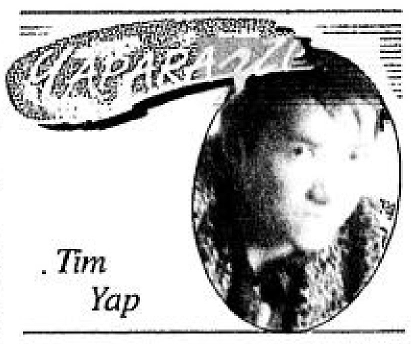
MAD TEA partyphile spotted in a Hong Kong club

AMOEBA mag's beauty editor Angel Chan at California Club

RAVING about ruffles at the Dior party

New watch, new bar, new book

> *"The urgent thing today is not to create a car or a chair which is more beautiful than another; what is urgent is for us all to fight with every means at our disposal against the fact that something is becoming extinct: love."*
>
> **—Philippe Starck**



Tim Yap

WORDS of wisdom spoken by a modern legend. The pop icon-genius inventor-fanciful philosopher Philippe Starck is probably the most famous designer in the world. From chic hotels in New York, London and all over the globe to hundreds of chairs and appliances down to the toothbrush in your apartment, he tries to reconcile man and object in one prolific and pulsating co-existence.

I was in Hong Kong recently at the unveiling of his latest watch, a joint project with créative powerhouse Fossil. In the Philippines, Fossil is distributed by Lucerne, with renaissance man **Emerson Yao** at the helm.

Afternoon tea was at the Felix (which Starck himself designed) at the Peninsula Hong Kong where a bevy of media folks from all over Asia gathered to witness the eight-piece collection of the Paris-born Starck. The watches were exhibited around the lobby, which looked like a museum that displayed [illegible] artsy timepieces in a plethora of [illegible] At the center was a screen with the proud banner of partnership—Philippe Starck with Fossil.

Later, [illegible] ls paraded around the venue to show off this piece of modernity [illegible] video had the designer himself talking about his invention. "After many years of refinement, the Philippe Starck watch proposes a universal and timeless elegance, intentionally not following the dictates of fashion, but rather is above it and therefore timeless." Longevity is the new modern parameter.

Starck's works are always about contradiction and functionality. For this set, he redefines the watch into "the new intelligent bracelet." More than a new designer watch brand, it is both minimal and bionic—futuristic-looking yet made with the now civilization in mind. "Elegance lies in simplicity," Starck would always say. I may not fully believe this principle, but I respect it.

Toast of the town

That same night, I went bar-hopping at Lan Kwai Fong—dropped by Drop and Alibi after the Dior party at California Club, then met up with stylish socialite journalist and tantric *tai tai* **Kitty Go** and Manila's dashing and eligible **Ricky Delgado** as he did the whole swing of the Hong Kong social swirl. I must say, they are the toasts of the town, bias notwithstanding.

Talking about toasts of the town, the best place to have a toast these days in the central Makati wining and dining district is this ab-fab, ultra happening Greek resto and bar called Mati, owned by "it" girl, head-turning style siren **Jenny Lopez (or "J. Lo") Psinakis** and debonair man about town **Yorgos Psinakis**.

"Mati is the amulet that the Greeks wear to protect them from the evil eye," said popular design wiz of the moment **Miguel Rosales**, who helped Jenny with Mati's understated and cozy interiors. "It doesn't assault your senses with grand gestures, rather, it is very welcoming," said a style file friend of mine. "In one word, spartan. Get it?" said rosy Rosales.

If there is anything that is an assault to the senses, it will be the beautiful, beautiful people seen hanging around this Rockwell dig. "It's San Mig grows up," opined our coffee to cocktails companion **Celine Lopez**.

During their soft opening, I chanced upon Pinay Greek model **Nafsika** at the bar, with siblings **Pierre** and **Kirsten Tounzis** feasting on the fantastic Greek fare of young chef **Jeremiah Go**. **Francisco Delgado** was ballroom dancing to techno tunes while **Wendy Puyat** and **Patrick Reyno** were trading style notes.

Lately, it has been the destination de rigueur for partyphiles this side of town, I heard Mati was the hands-down winner during last New Year's parade of parties, with a glamorama of chic, chic urbanites downing their booze till 7 a.m. This page features a bevy of the faces you will see on a regular Mati night out.

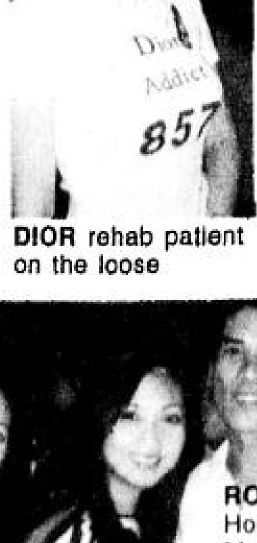
Happy meal high

That same evening, I also spotted columnist **Clinton Palanca**, who gave me a signed copy of his book, a compilation of his INQUIRER columns entitled "The Pleasures of Taste." (This is good, so I don't need to clip his column every week.) I was reading it on the plane from Tokyo (where I spent the holidays) and I could not put it down! It was the best book I had read in ages! And for a non-reader with such a short attention span like myself; and a non- foodie (my favorite restaurant is Mc Donald's, I always say) as well—this is the highest compliment.

I got high after reading his essays on life's little pleasures, from food to far away places to his raver dog—it gave me that perfect New Year's kick. The misadventures of our favorite chef-philosopher can apply to Everyman. The cover features the luscious legs of **Pia Guanlo**, with the words "a book to be savored" by **Doreen Fernandez** beneath. According to Clinton, because of the cover layout, people are thinking that the legs belong to Doreen.

My favorite was the piece on passion—"One knows from the first bite of anything whether passion went into its making," Clinton writes.

Whether it's a watch, a bar, a book or anything else, let us all inject that oomph into our lives—passion, soul and love—all year round.



DIOR rehab patient on the loose

ROCKWELL REVIVAL. Hoi Trinh, Tina Pluquet, Maricar Totengco, Tito Herbosa and chef Jeremiah Go

MTV Asia Awards 2002
Categories & Nominees

FAVORITE MUSIC ARTIST- Philippines
(Keyword: MUSICARTIST)
A - Freestyle
B - Gary Valenciano
C - Lea Salonga
D - Martin Nievera
E - Regine Velasquez

FAVORITE MALE ARTIST
(Keyword:MALEARTIST)
A - Eminem
B - Ricky Martin
C - Robbie Willams
D - Ronan Keating
E - Shaggy

FAVORITE FEMALE ARTIST
(Keyword: FEMALEARTIST)
A - Britney Spears
B - Christina Aguilera
C - Jennifer Lopez
D - Madonna
E - Mariah Carey

FAVORITE POP ACT
(Keyword: POPACT)
A - Backstreet Boys
B - Destiny's Child
C - M2M
D - N'Sync
E - Westlife

FAVORITE ROCK ACT
(Keyword: ROCKACT)
A - Bon Jovi
B - Coldplay
C - Limp Bizkit
D - Linkin Park
E - U2

FAVORITE VIDEO
(Keyword: VIDEO)
A - The Call (Backstreet Boys)
B - Weapon of Choice
(Fatboy Slim)
C - 19-2000 (Gorillaz)
D - POP (N'Sync)
E - Lady Marmalade
(Pink, Christina Aguilera, Mya, Lil' Kim)

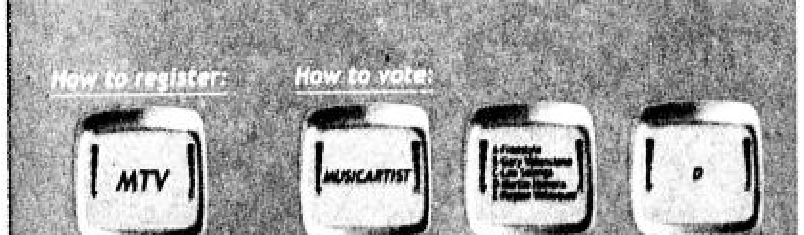
FAVORITE BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST (Keyword: BREAKTHROUGH)
A - Coldplay
B - Gorillaz
C - Nelly Furtado
D - Alicia Keys
E - Linkin Park

FAVORITE FILM
(Keyword: FILM)
A - Charlie's Angels
B - Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
C - Rush Hour 2
D - Pearl Harbor
E - Shrek
F - The Mummy Returns

FAVORITE FASHION DESIGNER
(Keyword: FASHION)
A - Donatella Versace (Versace)
B - John Galliano (Christian Dior)
C - Marc Jacobs (Louis Vuitton/ Marc Jacobs)
D - Miuccia Prada (Prada/Miu Miu)
E - Stella McCartney
F - Tom Ford (Gucci/ YSL)

Catch the *live* appearance of
Mandy Moore, Ronan Keating, The Rock
and other stars!

How to register:
How to vote:



Key in MTV. Send to 24304 and follow the step-by-step registration procedure.
Key in the Category you wish to vote for and send to 24304.
You will then receive this message.
Key in the letter of your choice and send to 24304.

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SMART
Simply Amazing!

A channel totally unlike anything you've seen before

UNTV transposes the alternative fare of NU 107.5 to television

By Maui V. Reyes

HEADS up, Filipino music enthusiasts, filmmakers and designers. There is now a channel made for people like you—people out of the ordinary, people with ideas… Enter UNTV, the TV expansion of the rock station NU 107.5. True to its radio format of featuring cutting-edge music and personalities, UNTV erases the predictable and serves up a platter of diverse shows and characters. Taste-test the difference on UHF Channel 37, on Channel 59 for Home Cable and Destiny Cable subscribers, and on UHF Channel 39 in Cebu.

'In the Raw'

(Mondays at 9 p.m., with replays on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 5 p.m., Thursdays at 10:30 p.m., Fridays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 12 mn.)

NU listeners know this show all too well. Who can forget the radio ad that features the hopeless drummer belting out a song? Hosted by The Dawn's Francis "Brew" Reyes and Fatal Posporos' Annette Ortiz, the 30-minute program showcases new talent served hot and fresh in your living rooms every Monday night. You not only hear the new music, but you get to see the band perform as well. If that isn't enough, Francis gets some help from other musicians to critic the band's performance and music. After helping launch the careers of Greyhoundz, <s>, Slapshock and Cheese (among others), "In the Raw" definitely contributes to the music scene by pulling the musicians out of the garage and onto the stage.

ARLO with his plant "Robert"

'Roam'

(Wednesdays at 9 p.m., with replays on Sundays at 6:30 p.m., Mondays at 12 mn, Thursdays at 3:30 p.m., Fridays at 5 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:30 p.m.)

Looking for a cheap thrill but don't have enough moolah to get around? You can either splurge all that money in one fishball stand or join Zach (of Zach and Joey in the Morning) as he discovers (or re-discovers) some of Metro Manila's hotspots. Half of the fun is finding a way to get there, and the show proves that having some change in your pocket is more than enough for an adventure in the metropolis. You wouldn't believe the places you've missed out on (like the "nature churches" of Parañaque!), the people you ought to meet and the food you just have to taste. All that in 30 minutes! Zach just might have a future with tourism if ever he quits his day job.

"ROAM's" Zach in action

TADO (right) and his driver Erning host "Strange Brew."

'Strange Brew'

(Saturdays at 9 p.m., with replays on Sundays at 3:30 p.m., Mondays at 5 p.m., Tuesdays at 10:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 12 mn.)

Bums have lives, too. Take a look at the self-proclaimed professional bum, Tado. He's got his own opinions on fashion, lifestyle, food and good morning towels. Together with his pretty bodyguard/driver Erning, he treks around the metro and presents the world as we know it through the eyes of…well…Tado. Witty, funny and definitely the only one of its kind, "Strange Brew" proves that you don't need a ditzy VJ to make a hit show. Yep, all you need is a professional bum and his bodyguard.

'Playback'

(Thursdays at 9 p.m., with replays on Sundays at 10:30 p.m., Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 12 mn, Fridays at 3:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 5 p.m.)

Missed the Rock Awards last year? There's no excuse to miss it this time around. "Playback" features all the NU events, ready to be relived all over again. Pocket concerts, summer shebangs, Rock Awards and Alternativity, along with other events, like the Son of a Bar tour and Rockology 107, are ready to be beamed straight to your bedroom every Thursday night at 9. Be careful with the moshing.

"WHAT'S UN" hosts Ramon E with Baz Attitude

DIEGO Mapa (left) and Jason Caballa host "Manic Pop Thrill."

'Manic Pop Thrill'

(Mondays at 8:30 p.m., with replays at 11:30 p.m. and on Tuesdays at 3 p.m.)

Based on the running radio program on NU 107 (("Not Radio"), which features indie-rock and indie-pop music, "Manic Pop Thrill" promises more than just the usual squabbles of DJs and gives a twist to its radio counterpart. Hosted by indie-rock-culture gurus (and fanatics) Diego (of Monsterbot) and Jason (of Twisted Halo and Blast Ople), the show's indie videos follow a "day-in-the-life" story of the two indie geeks. Whether it's about joining the show "Who Wants to be a Trillionaire?" or being abducted by aliens, the show promises tons of information on indie artists, music and videos out of the ordinary.

'Out of Time'

(Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m., with replays on Tuesdays at 11:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 3 p.m.)

A different take on the good ol' times in music history. Remember the time when the Stones, Iggy Pop and Queen ruled the charts? Well, Arlo remembers it well…a little too well, in fact. Who else knows the '60s and '70s better than a spaced-out hippie who actually (or so he says) hung out with the Beatles? Join Arlo and his plant Robert as they go down memory lane in music.

'Rock Rulez'

(Saturdays at 8:30 p.m., with replays at 11:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 3 p.m.)

What happens when you introduce Limp Bizkit to the animated Elvez the King? "Rock Rulez" features hard rock, grunge, punk and metal videos. Sure, it's the usual video feed, but who would want to miss Elvez converse with Mahatma Gandhi? Starring a slew of other animated characters, "Rock Rulez" is one show worth the watch!

'EPK'

(Thursdays at 8:30 p.m., with replays at 11:30 p.m. and on Fridays at 3 p.m.)

"Electronic Press Kit." That's what "EPK" stands for. Get a dose of big-name bands and bands moving up the charts. Not to be thrown in the blender of similar nonstop video shows, UNTV sprinkles in tidbits on the people and lifestyle behind the music, along with the making of videos, all in 30 minutes.

'Short Ends'

(Mondays to Thursdays at 9:30 p.m.)

'Eat My Shorts'

(Fridays at 9 p.m, with replays on Mondays at 11:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.)

Film enthusiasts will get a kick out of watching their peers' short films on UNTV. "Short Ends" showcases shorts anywhere from a minute to 15 minutes, while "Eat My Shorts" dishes out shorts over 15 minutes. Each show features introductions, notes and commentaries from filmmakers themselves. Probably the first of its kind in Philippine television, both shows promise a great future for filmmakers of all ages.

The latest in war paint for the hopelessly 'kikay'

The latest brands that have hit the market make the makeup-prone even more bewildered but exhilarated

By Mariless V. Villamar
2bU! Correspondent

GONE are the days when we pinched our cheeks to achieve a healthy rosy glow on our cheeks. These days, all you need is a tube of Nars multiple and you instantly have tint on your cheeks, eyelids and lips.

Being a girl has never been more fun. My head spins each time I step into the cosmetics section of a department store. Everything I've ever imagined is neatly packed in tubes, pots and functional-looking bottles.

Since I'm a female myself, I can understand how difficult it is to keep up with the trends and new names in cosmetics. Makeup junkies, listen up. Here's a guide to the latest brands that have hit the local market.

Mac. It's a wonder why this brand wasn't brought in sooner. Mac aficionados have recently been getting their fill of lipsticks and eye shadows. It's not fun when you have to ask your *balikbayan* relatives to buy the stuff in bulk abroad.

The Mac makeup line is one of the many recent acquisitions of Estee Lauder Companies Inc. It was founded in Toronto, Canada by makeup artist Frank Toscan and business partner Frank Angelo back in 1984. Mac has stayed true to its corporate mantra "All races, all sexes, all ages"; this is probably why it's such a success. The Mac lip line offers a plethora of choices for women of all ages. Its lip lacquers and lip gloss come in natural and funky colors. The lip gloss creates a high gloss and subtle sheen while the lacquer creates a smooth sexy finish packed with color and gloss. The spice lip liner is a staple in celebrity *kikay* kits; it's natural-looking and looks great alone or filled in with lipstick. My *balikbayan* friends were happy to stock up on the makeup brushes since they are sold cheaper here. If you are not shy about being a Mac fanatic, you can buy the makeup kits with the name Mac scribbled all over them. The Mac counter is located at Glorietta Mall, across Bon Apetit.

Prescriptives. This brand is another offshoot of Estee Lauder companies and was brought in just last September much to the delight of my *kikay* friends. The Prescriptives line was introduced by Estee Lauder Companies way back in 1979; it is known for innovations in skin products. Its foundations are probably some of the best available. It offers a range of Exact Match Foundation that matches any skin type. A must-have is the Prescriptives Magic foundation, which many of you may have already read about in fashion magazines. This liquid powder promises to give you a smoother younger look; it's supposed to look like powder with some iridescent effect. My sister has tried it and she hasn't stopped gushing since. Although it is the foundation line that has brought it recognition, other products like stick blushes and lipsticks are worth checking out.

The fragrance line is not too shabby either. I love Prescriptives Flirt because it miraculously does not make me sneeze and I always get compliments when I wear it. Available at Rustan's Makati.

Origins. I was quite young when I purchased my first Origins product. I picked it up years ago in a Chicago mall. I couldn't get over the amazing effect of the bloody-looking mixture when swiped over my cheeks. The saleslady laughed when she saw my incredulous expression at the transformation. What amazed me was that I looked like I had just finished a rigorous gym workout. The pink color on my cheeks looked natural. Thus began my love affair with cheek tints.

But Origins is actually more of a lifestyle product line made to address total well-being. Origins skin and bath products make use of natural ingredients like plant extracts and sea substances. Although the focus of this line is on total skin care, the makeup products, like foundation and gloss, are pretty good. From the name itself, Origins is a brand committed to the preservation of the natural environment. Available at Rustan's Makati.

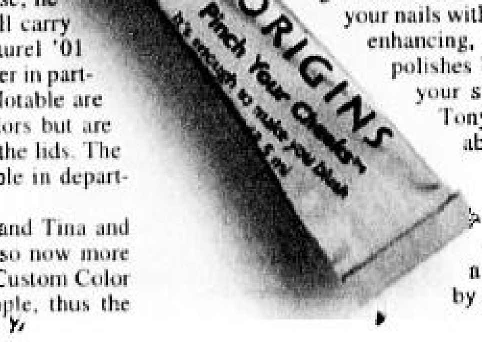
Rajo Laurel 01. When a designer has reached hotshot status, the most natural career move is to branch into cosmetics. Just ask Calvin Klein. After all, fashion and cosmetics are interdependent. Rajo is smart enough to strike while the iron is hot. Now that he has cultivated a loyal client base, he must be hoping that the Rajo fever will carry over to his makeup line. The Rajo Laurel '01 makeup line was launched last November in partnership with VMV Hypoallergenics. Notable are the eye creams that come in vivid colors but are not at all intimidating once applied on the lids. The lipsticks are worth trying, too. Available in department stores.

Others. Smaller brands like Tony and Tina and Three Custom Color Specialists are also now more accessible to Pinay consumers. Three Custom Color Specialists was founded by three people, thus the reason for the name. Products cover the entire spectrum, from concealers to mascara, lipsticks and face powders. The Special Effects collection, which is a lipstick palette kit with nine different shades, is essential for those who love to experiment with color.

Available at Beauty Bar.

The idea behind Tony and Tina cosmetics is similar to that of Origins. It creates products for women with consideration for their health and "vibrational" energies. The names of the products reflect the philosophy of positive thinking, so I guess the next time you're having a really murderous thought about a catty co-worker just apply the Tony and Tina aromatherapy lip gloss and the thought gets banished. You may also paint your nails with one of their mood-enhancing, herbal-infused nail polishes before going to see your surly thesis adviser. Tony and Tina is available at Beauty Bar.

Watch out for the launch of Shu Uemura cosmetics. There is a buzz it is arriving by the end of the year.



Her cousin is in love with her ex-boyfriend

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I used to have a boyfriend who is the biggest dog that I know. He's cute and smart but when it comes to girls, he just can't stop flirting with them. I couldn't put up with it so I had to break up with him. The last talk that we had as a couple was quite nasty, actually, that's why we're not friends now—we didn't even try to be friends after that. Anyway, that would have been fine with me, except that he has started dating a younger cousin of mine. I don't know how they met. I never introduced them to each other but now they're quite close and I'm really scared that my ex would end up hurting my cousin.

She's young and I think a little too naive. This is the first time that she has been attached to any guy and that guy turned out to be a creep. What do I tell her? Do I have to tell her anything about him? I think I should, as an older, wiser cousin who knows from firsthand experience, but I'm also scared that my cousin wouldn't believe me since she's so caught up with my ex. If I do tell her something, how shall I do it? Or do I tell my ex to stay away from her?

SHIRL

Admirable as it is that you care about your cousin being in the hands of a creep, I think it would be better if you let her learn the flipside of romance on her own. Your fears of possibly creating conflict between your cousin and yourself once you tell her things that she is not yet ready to know are not to be ignored; the shoot-the-messenger syndrome affects almost every starry-eyed young girl, and there's no guarantee that your cousin is will be spared from it.

However, if not telling her anything is something that you just cannot do, I guess it would be safe to inform her that the guy is your ex. If she asks questions about how your relationship was and how and why you broke up, then be honest and tell her. She asked for answers, anyway. Just don't exaggerate the facts and don't immediately paint an ugly picture of your ex for her; who knows, maybe he has changed now.

Another thing you could do, which you've already mentioned, is approaching your ex and sort of giving him a warning that he can never fool your cousin with you around. That could be risky, though, because if he immediately tells your cousin about the "threats" you told him, she might not take them nicely. You can confront him only when you sense that he has started to play around again. It will be best to talk to your cousin about him first.

SEP

I went out with my cousin's ex once. Although the details and facts of their relationship were sketchy, his face betrayed an impression of her like that of a Blue Picasso on acid. At least that was what I gathered via the awkward silence when we stepped into the room. What I learned later on was that my then-girlfriend (cousin's "ex") was the dumper for some unknown reasons, as I had mentioned.

I was young and naive. Vive la naivete! I was 19, she was 18. The village I came from seemed so far away; all of the guys knew much more what to say—but I know—I have a heart like the sea…a million dreams are in me…But in the end, I guess I was smarter (or more angsty) and I broke up with her.

Moral of the story: Make up with your ex because dogs are cool and you only broke up with him because you were weak and not enough of a bitch for him, which is probably what he needs. "Cousin"…take note.

CALOY

Gayspeak becoming 2nd language of many Pinoys

By BJ Flores

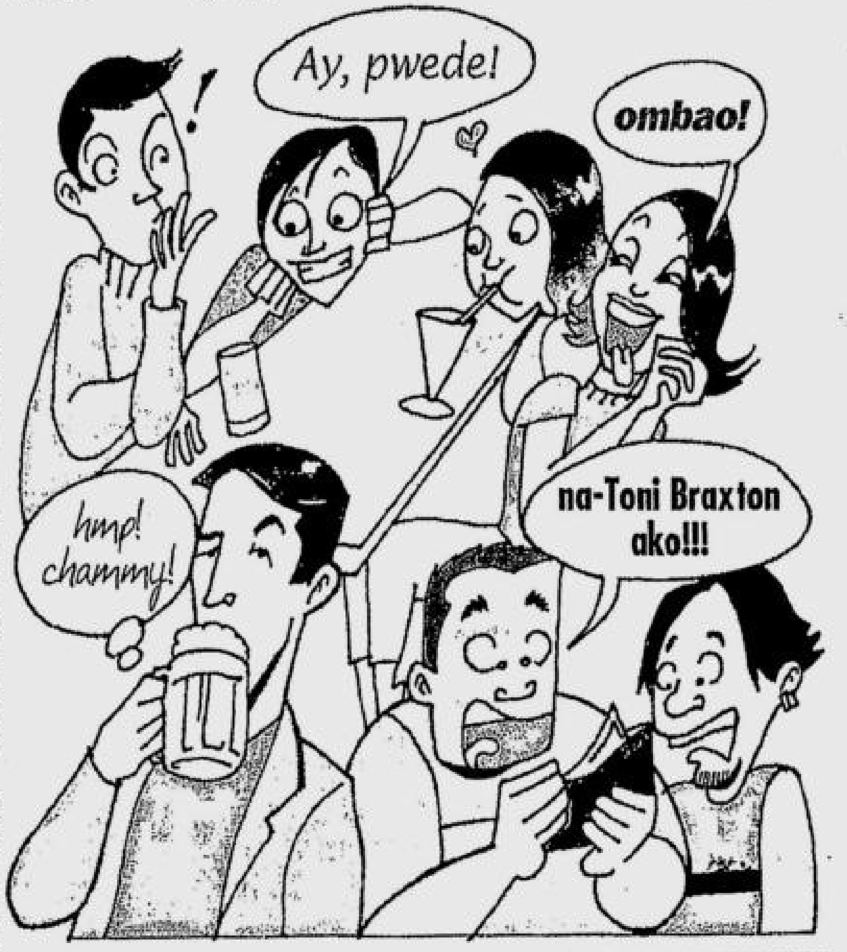

Ay, pwede!
ombao!
hmp! chammy!
na-Toni Braxton ako!!!

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

IT'S always fun to talk about something with your friends in terms that do not make sense to people rude enough to listen, especially when we're checking out cute guys or just having coffee. Gay talk has gone a long way with people in show business "adopting" the vocabulary. Sometimes, it scares me to think how widespread gay talk has become. I am sometimes shocked that my best gal pal and I are starting to sound alike.

They say it is impossible to produce a gay lingo dictionary because of the speed at which words transmute. A few weeks of separation from my gay friends, for instance, puts me outside their circle for a while, as I cannot speak the "language" fluently anymore. It is also a wonder how some words have become "universal," used by gays in Tondo as well as in Cebu.

Take the word *tsugi* (to dislike someone or something), a term of gay origins that has become widely used, although it seems to have become passé now. I do not know exactly what its current equivalent is, but in our group we use wrong, as in "*Ni*-wrong *ni* Cesar *ang* Yamashita's Treasure *sa* speech *nya*," or "Wrong *na* wrong *yung* blue gown *ni* Assunta de Rossi." Before that, award was used, as in "*Inawardan ni* Gloria *si* Mike *habang iniinterview sya sa* radio." But again word has become pretty much outdated now.

When we talk about men, the world practically stops as people around us try hard, but without success, to understand what we are saying. I never learned how they got their meaning but the letters b.y. were once used to describe a potential "hottie," and *ombao* a fit guy. They have now been replaced by words that are easier to the ears. When you're a guy and you hear the exclamation *puwede* as you pass by a group of gay men, that means you have just become a sex object. You will probably catch them eyeing you like you are a particularly tasty tidbit.

If later you hear them say, "*Ay*, chapter!" or "*chammy*" that means they have reconsidered their earlier assessment of you and have now decided you are an ugly piece of flesh. Chapter or *chammy* mutated from the early gay term, "*chaka*," taking the sound of its first syllable. I don't know however, which is more offensive—those words or what my friend Maddie recently introduced to us, *hipon* (shrimp), to describe a guy with a great body and a not-so-nice face. "'*Di ba sa hipon kinakain mo yung katawan tapos tinatapon mo yung ulo*?" she offered as explanation. Usher suddenly came to mind. It made sense to me.

If a guy gives a wink or two, then "*pa*-get *sya*." S/He may be indicating interest in starting something with you. Use the term as in "*Itong si* Carlo Agassi *mukhang* flirt. *Pa*-get *kaya sya*?" A milder version is *pa*-yummy as in "That guy is all *pa*-yummy, *torpe naman*!" It means that the guy is all bark, no bite. Think of him as a wallflower, though eye candy.

Nagmamatamis or *pa*-sweet is more appropriate for girls (or gays, for that matter). Take for example, "*Nagmatamis si* Alessandra *nung tinanong s'ya ni Mareng* Winnie about her personal life." This means Alessandra smiled and giggled like a little schoolgirl before answering the question. It can also be a substitute for *pakipot*.

A new term has been coined to describe gay men–*ngangis*. The term is particularly appropriate in describing a guy you are attracted to but who turns out to be gay. It can also be used to describe a relationship. You can say, "*Type ko pa rin si Piolo kahit ngangis pa sya*" or "*Ngangis 'yung guys sa* latest commercial *ng* Pond's."

I heard recently from a correspondent from an exclusive girl's school a cute way of describing prostitute-looking girls. "Hammer," was her succinct assessment of one girl, proceeding to explain: "What sound does a hammer make?" Uh, okay. Thanks to her, my friends and I can pass by Makati Avenue talking about hammers without hurting anyone's feelings.

Speaking of hurting feelings, we have come up with a way to discuss whether or not a cab's meter is fast without the driver knowing what we are saying. "Toni Braxton" means there's something suspicious about the meter, like it's rolling too fast. The term came from the name Toni Daya, a former Filipina crooner. *Daya* is cheat in Tagalog.

> 'It scares me to think how widespread gay talk has become'

When we discuss the fare, we say ham instead of hundred as in "*Na*-Toni Braxton *na naman tayo*. Our fare cost us 150 ham!" I've heard others use *aray*, I guess to signify how much it hurts to let go of hard-earned money.

No one knows what new terms will be introduced this year. I'm certain, though, that in six months, somebody can write another article on gay talk and have many new words to share. Heck, I'm sure I missed several in this piece. Then again, if I put everything here, then there's nothing left for my friends and I to share in secret. *In fairness!*

E-mail the author at blue_arden@yahoo.com

How to have a natural windblown look

MAKE OVER
Kinny Salas

THE PRICE range of hairdryers is so wide. I noticed that the ones parlors use are expensive. Is there really a difference in performance between an average-priced and expensive one? I would have thought it was a matter of skill. I am thinking of buying a new one and am hoping you could give me some guidelines. Thank you and more power.

JACKIE

Of course, the hairdryer can't take all the credit. Skill acquired through practice has a lot to do with the finished product. A good hairdryer, however, maximizes the final results and makes the job so much easier.

Although it is true that the expensive ones are usually good, there are four basic qualifications for the best results. Read the box before rushing to the cashier.

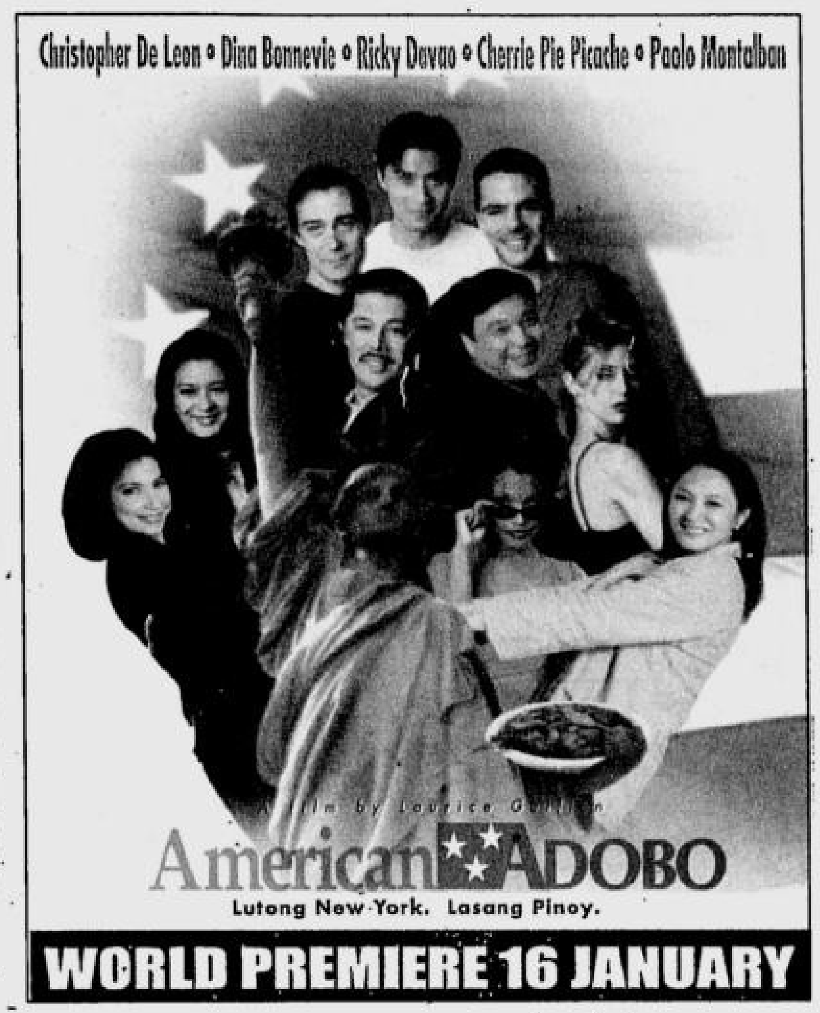
- At least 1,500 watts of power. That gives you high heat and blowing power essential to straightening or curling your hair. The motor will also last longer than those of lesser wattage.
- Different heat settings. A selection lets you use high heat for more dramatic looks and low heat if you just want a natural windblown look.
- A cool button. Hair will drop if it's still warm when you finish styling. A shot of cool air will help set the style.
- The right nozzle. The dryer should have a smaller nozzle attachment that you can use to direct the airflow over a round brush. Thick hair benefits from a metal nozzle, which heats up fast cutting drying time by a lot.

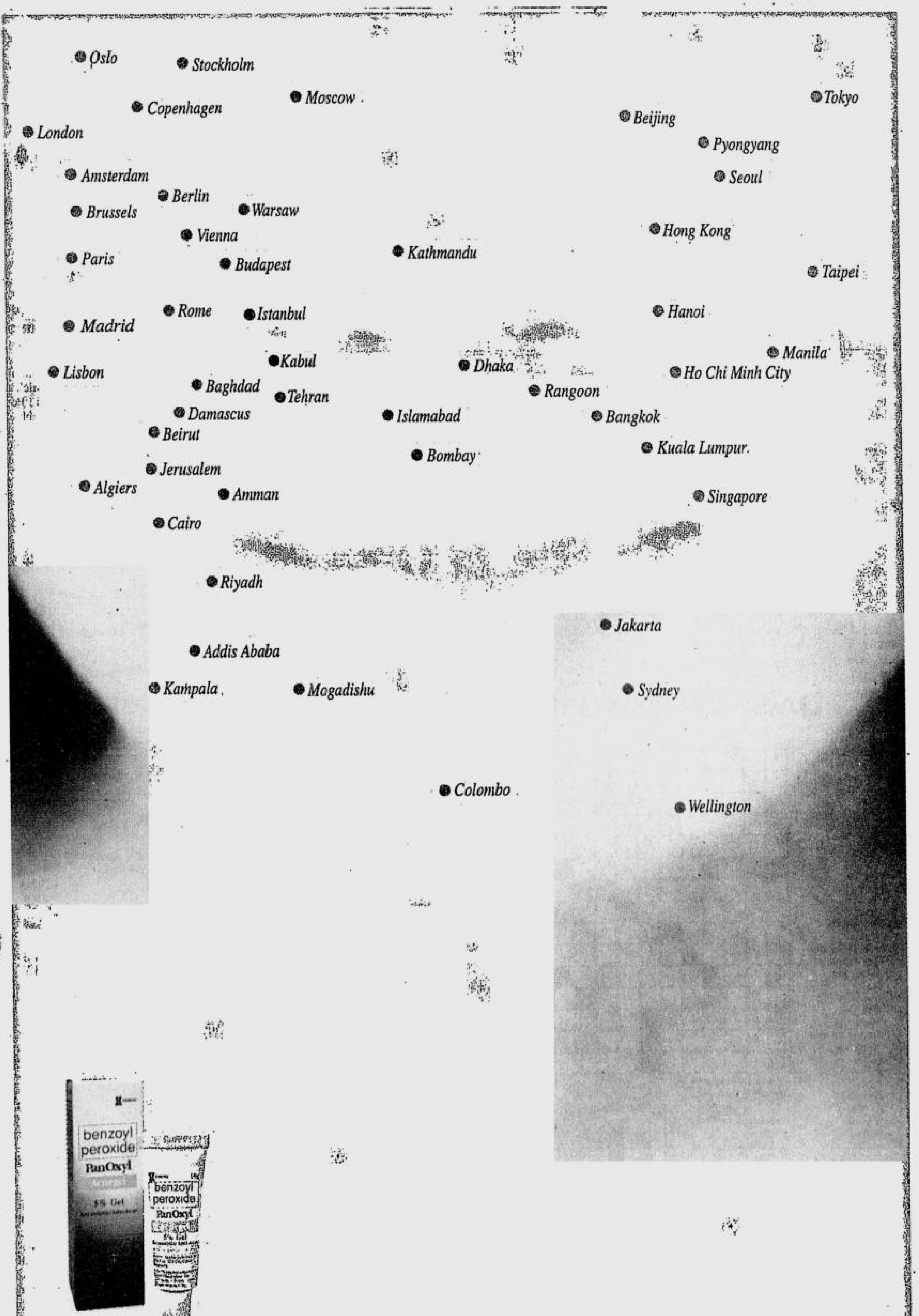
MY job leaves me so pooped. I live really far and work long hours so the only thing I have time for when I get home is brushing my teeth and taking a shower. Then I fall asleep the moment my head hits the pillow. The problem is I seldom have the time to dry my hair so it looks like a disaster in the morning. All fly away or really flat. Sometimes it is so dull and matted that I really don't look professional. Please do not tell me to cut my long hair because a short cut doesn't suit me. My hair is really thick and shiny when I get to dry it properly. I would hate to see it chopped off.

FARRAH

The solution is very simple. After your shower, towel dry your hair until it is no longer dripping wet. You can even leave the towel on to soak up most of the water. Comb your hair up on a ponytail knotted at the top of your head like a genie and fall asleep. All you have to do is yank off the ponytail holder in the morning then brush through and you will find bouncy hair.

If you want a different style, braid your hair on both sides (like when you were a little girl) overnight then unravel in the morning for soft waves. If your hair tends to be dry, use conditioners like Ascend or Phytologie before braiding or putting up in a ponytail.


Christopher De Leon • Dina Bonnevie • Ricky Davao • Cherrie Pie Picache • Paolo Montalban
a film by Laurice Guillen
American ADOBO
Lutong New York. Lasang Pinoy.
WORLD PREMIERE 16 JANUARY



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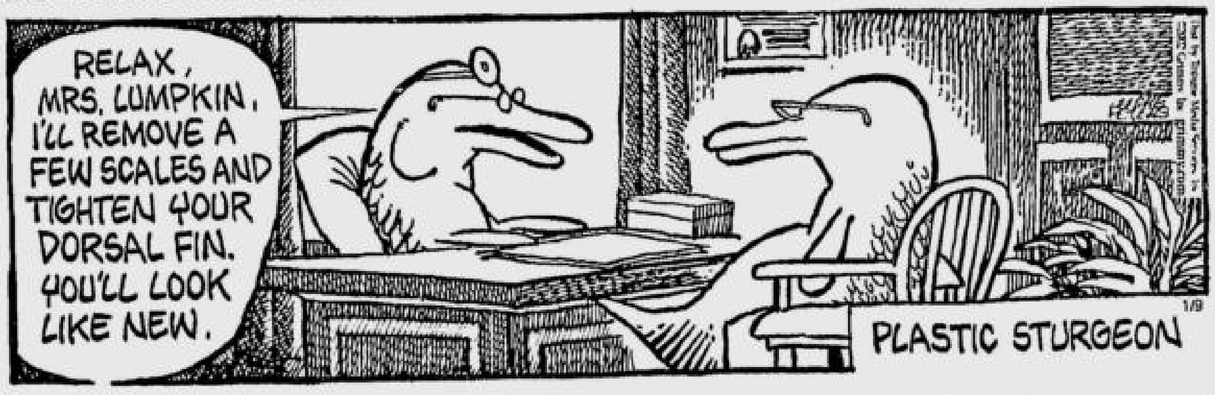
PA-01-01 PH

COMIC Relief

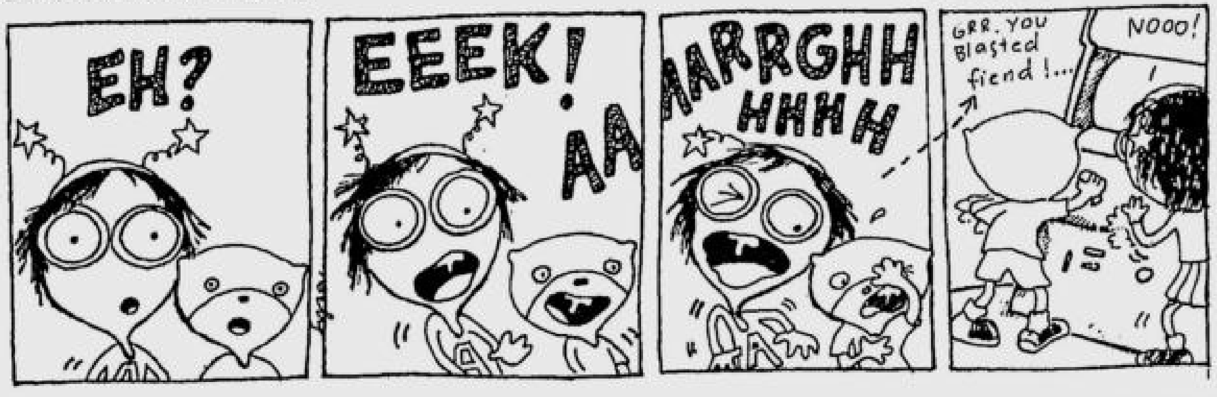
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


RELAX, MRS. LUMPKIN. I'LL REMOVE A FEW SCALES AND TIGHTEN YOUR DORSAL FIN. YOU'LL LOOK LIKE NEW.
PLASTIC STURGEON
1/9

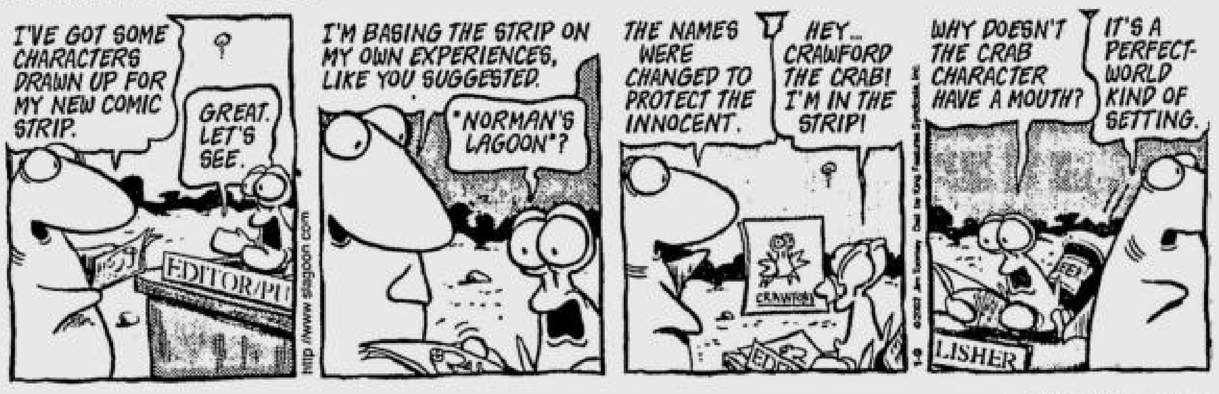
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


EH?
EEEK! AA
AARRGHH HHHH
GRR. YOU Blasted fiend!...
NOOO!

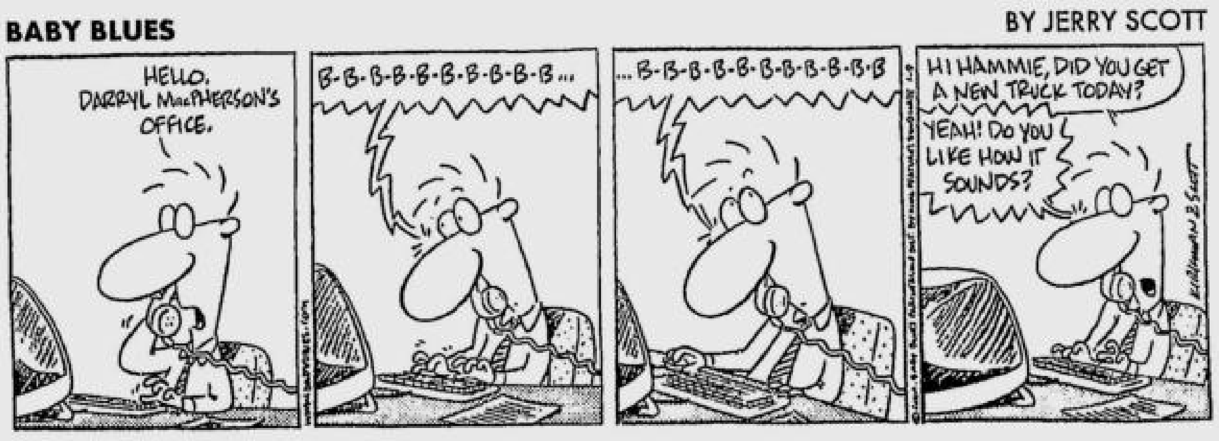
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I'VE GOT SOME CHARACTERS DRAWN UP FOR MY NEW COMIC STRIP.
GREAT. LET'S SEE.
EDITOR/PU
I'M BASING THE STRIP ON MY OWN EXPERIENCES, LIKE YOU SUGGESTED.
"NORMAN'S LAGOON"?
THE NAMES WERE CHANGED TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT.
HEY... CRAWFORD THE CRAB! I'M IN THE STRIP!
CRAWFORD
WHY DOESN'T THE CRAB CHARACTER HAVE A MOUTH?
IT'S A PERFECT-WORLD KIND OF SETTING.
LISHER
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HELLO. DARRYL MacPHERSON'S OFFICE.
B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B...
...B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B
HI HAMMIE, DID YOU GET A NEW TRUCK TODAY?
YEAH! DO YOU LIKE HOW IT SOUNDS?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Crystal Gayle, Joan Baez, Jimmy Page, A. J. McLean

Happy Birthday: You must be prepared to do whatever is necessary in order to move forward in a positive manner. If you think that everything will drop in your lap think again. You can achieve plenty if you make your resources work for you. Your numbers are 9, 11, 14, 22, 25, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It's time to take a proactive position when it comes to your financial situation. If you want to make an investment, consider investing in yourself and your home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)): If you've been feeling a little lonely you may need to push yourself out the door and into a group setting. Join in and become a participant and you will find yourself feeling alive once again.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will have a hard time dealing with emotional issues today. This is not the time to make a decision regarding your personal life.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You should make plans to get out and have some fun. You've been working too hard and it's time to reward yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be careful not to upset the ones you love. A friend may need to lean on you; be compassionate but honest.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's time to step into a new phase that offers greater interaction with others. You should consider getting involved in activities that will help you meet new people.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can reach your goals if you are quick to respond and willing to work with others. Your ability to see all sides of a situation should give you the edge over any competition that you face.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Plan a quiet relaxing day. You owe it to yourself to sit back and catch up on what's happening with the ones you love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put your best foot forward and you will receive satisfaction. The pleasure you get from helping those in need will be well worth your effort.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do something worthwhile for an organization you believe in. Your positive action will put you in good standing with prominent people who can further your personal goals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may not get along with everyone at work today, but don't let your job get to you. If you think that you are being ill-treated you might want to consider looking for a new position.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You are open and receptive today. Join in and attend events that will teach you about the cultural differences in your community. A changing attitude will lead you in interesting new directions.

Birthday Baby: You are curious and you like to wander. You love excitement and adventure and will go out of your way to discover new and unusual ways to entertain yourself. You are fun loving and popular.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11	12	13	14
15								■	16					
17								■	18					
19					■	20		21			■	22		
23				■	24						■	25		
■	■	■	■	26						■	27			
28	29	30	31					■	■	32				
33							■	34	35					
36					■	■	37							
38				■	39	40					■	■	■	■
41			■	42						■	43	44	45	46
47			■	48					■	49				
50			51			■	52		53					
54						■	55							
56						■	57							

By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

11/24/01

ACROSS
1 Well-known wheel-spinner
9 Bird calls
15 Claim presumptuously
16 Smart comeback
17 In a sluggish manner
18 Christian celebration
19 Peruvian people
20 Tabernacle table
22 Artie's Gardner
23 Those opposed
24 Moves with stealth
25 Faucet
26 Cline and Kensit
27 Runner Devers
28 Paraguayan money
32 Sacred book
33 Books
34 Nothing to worry about
36 Rib-eye alternative
37 Railroad switchers
38 Beach material
39 University of Georgia's city
41 The Greatest
42 Gets brighter
43 Bleacher cheers
47 Is down with
48 Marine starter?
49 Imminent danger
50 Complete
52 Always
54 With venom
55 Let go
56 Misleading attractions
57 Hand shears

DOWN
1 "Hemingway's Chair" author Michael
2 Field of action
3 Comic-strip Dick
4 Soft drinks
5 Ripens
6 Stenerud or Steen
7 Legendary island
8 Like some entry devices
9 Grating noises
10 Listens to
11 Part of TGIF
12 Possible to turn
13 One who wins out
14 Like clutch bags and bustiers
21 Perth's river
24 Rational
26 Congressional aide
27 Present
28 Advances
29 Lack of stability
30 Combative
31 "Atlas Shrugged" author
32 Open containers
34 Poe poem
35 Scores on diamonds
37 Generous people
39 Bowling lanes
40 New Year in Vietnam
42 Permed
43 Do another land survey
44 Got to one's feet
45 Employer
46 Snow-day rides
49 Private sch.
51 Bridal vow
53 Lilly or Wallach

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

M	O	P	S	■	A	M	O	R	E	■	T	B	A	R
O	R	E	O	■	M	A	L	A	Y	■	R	O	T	H
L	I	T	H	■	A	G	G	I	E	■	O	T	T	O
D	O	R	O	T	H	Y	A	N	D	T	O	T	O	■
E	L	O	■	U	S	A	■	■	■	A	P	O	R	T
D	E	L	F	T	■	R	A	D	A	R	■	M	N	O
■	■	■	I	T	S	■	N	I	L	■	K	E	E	N
■	A	N	N	I	E	A	N	D	S	A	N	D	Y	■
R	E	I	N	■	A	M	U	■	O	R	E	■	■	■
A	R	T	■	G	R	I	L	L	■	O	W	L	E	T
P	A	R	S	E	■	■	■	I	S	M	■	E	V	E
■	T	I	M	M	Y	A	N	D	L	A	S	S	I	E
M	O	T	E	■	E	R	O	D	E	■	I	S	N	T
A	R	E	A	■	A	C	T	E	D	■	L	O	C	H
U	S	S	R	■	S	H	E	D	S	■	K	N	E	E

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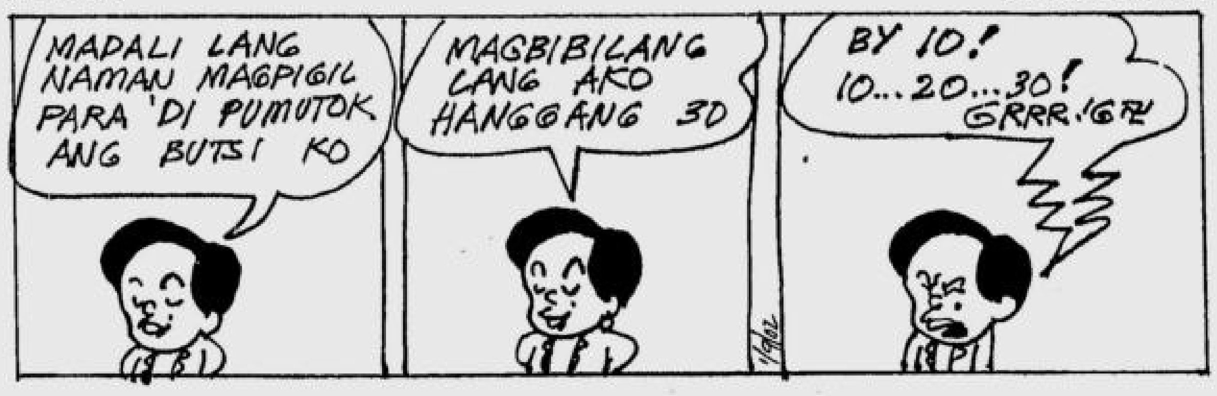
11/24/01

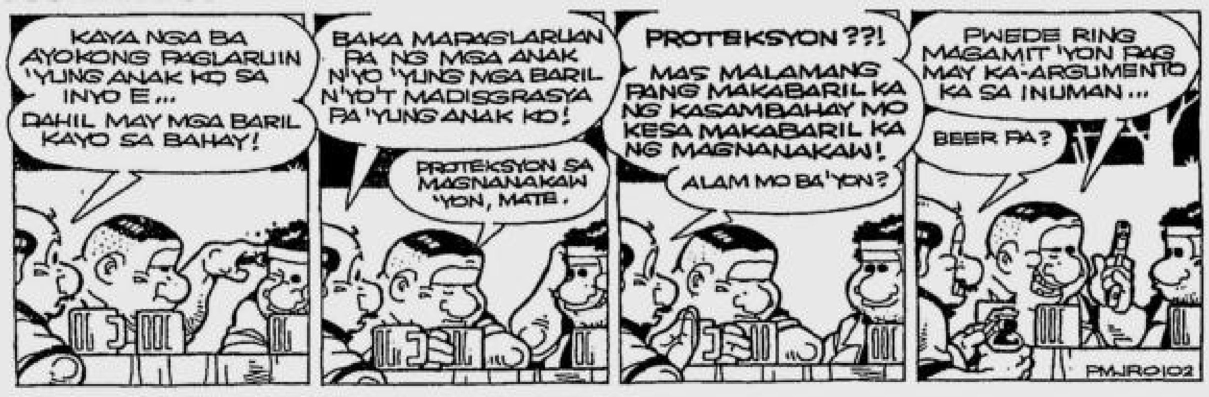
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MADALI LANG NAMAN MAGPIGIL PARA 'DI PUMUTOK ANG BUTSI KO
MAGBIBILANG LANG AKO HANGGANG 30
BY 10! 10...20...30! GRRR.!G?!
1/9/02

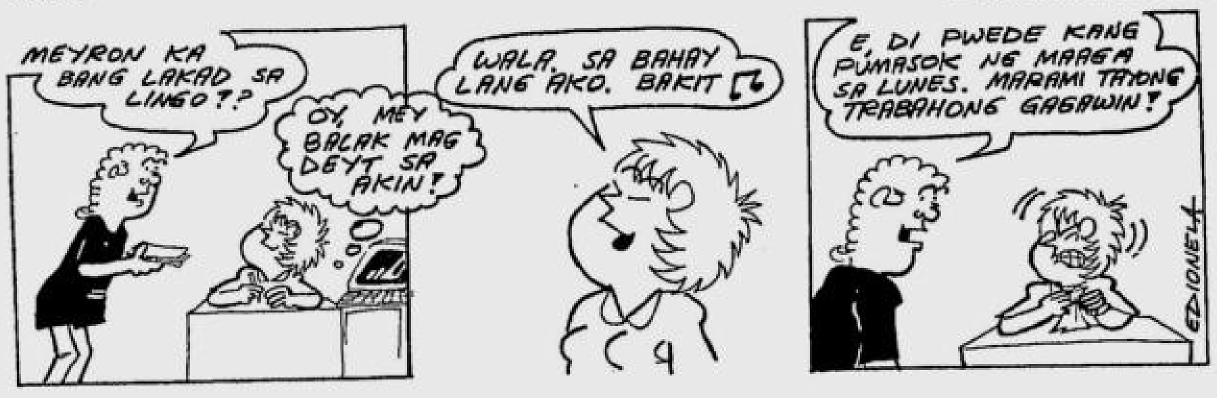
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KAYA NGA BA AYOKONG PAGLARUIN 'YUNG ANAK KO SA INYO E...
DAHIL MAY MGA BARIL KAYO SA BAHAY!
BAKA MAPAGLARUAN PA NG MGA ANAK N'YO 'YUNG MGA BARIL N'YO'T MADISGRASYA PA 'YUNG ANAK KO!
PROTEKSYON SA MAGNANAKAW 'YON, MATE.
PROTEKSYON??!
MAS MALAMANG PANG MAKABARIL KA NG KASAMBAHAY MO KESA MAKABARIL KA NG MAGNANAKAW!
ALAM MO BA 'YON?
PWEDE RING MAGAMIT 'YON PAG MAY KA-ARGUMENTO KA SA INUMAN...
BEER PA?
PMJR0102

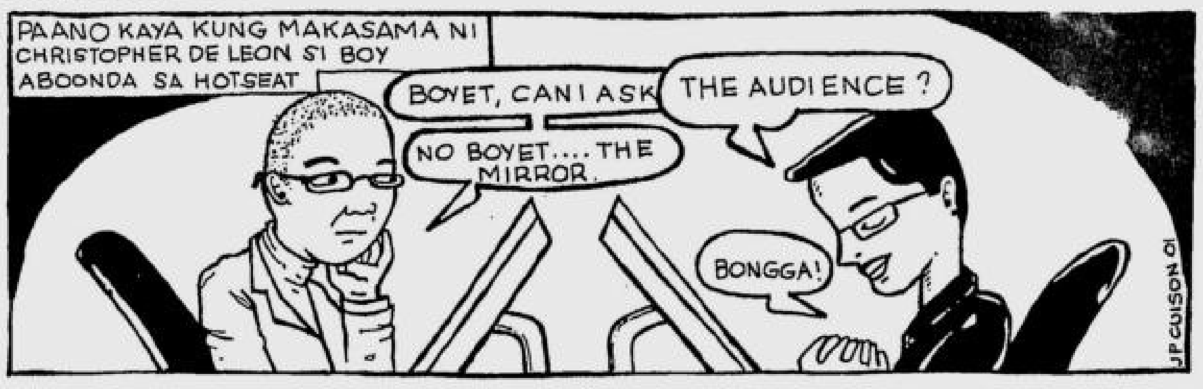
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


MEYRON KA BANG LAKAD SA LINGO?!?
OY, MEY BALAK MAG DEYT SA AKIN!
WALA. SA BAHAY LANG AKO. BAKIT?
E, DI PWEDE KANG PUMASOK NG MAAGA SA LUNES. MARAMI TAYONG TRABAHONG GAGAWIN!
EDIONELA

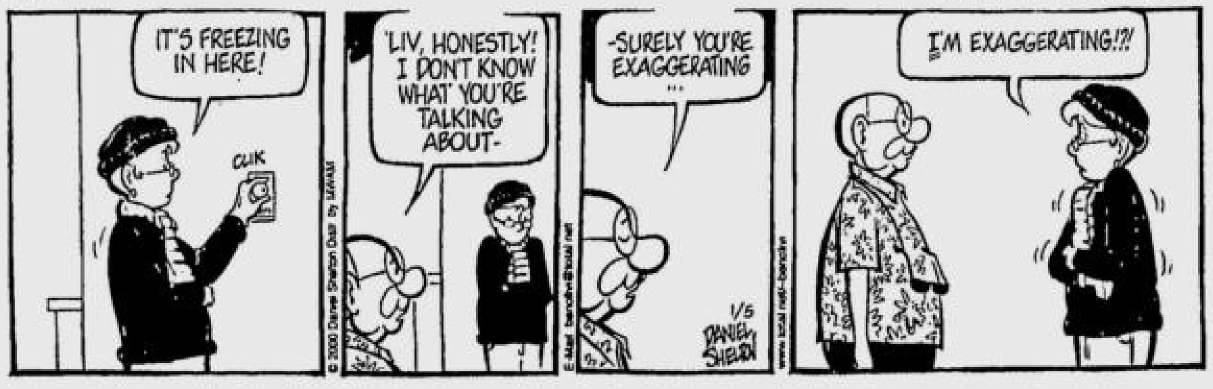
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


PAANO KAYA KUNG MAKASAMA NI CHRISTOPHER DE LEON SI BOY ABOONDA SA HOTSEAT
BOYET, CAN I ASK
THE AUDIENCE?
NO BOYET.... THE MIRROR.
BONGGA!
JP CUISON 01

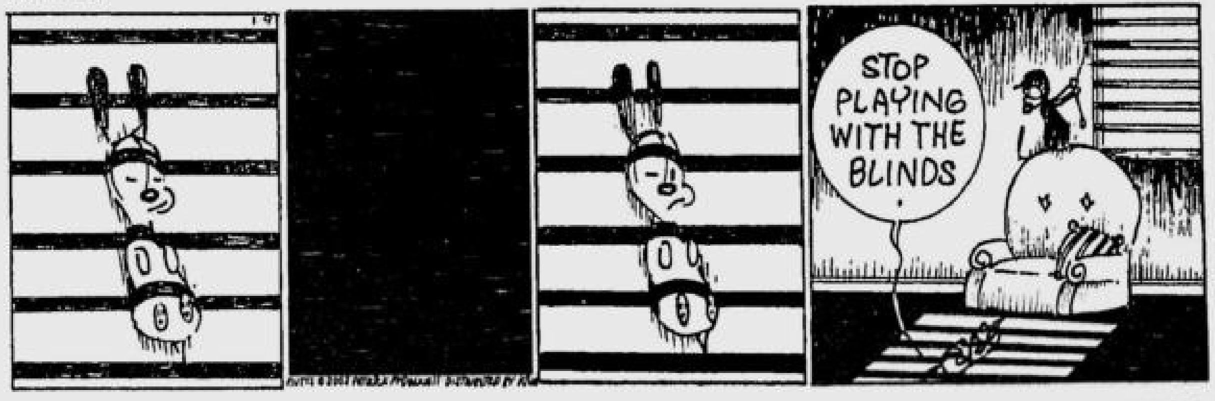
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


IT'S FREEZING IN HERE!
CLIK
'LIV, HONESTLY! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT-
-SURELY YOU'RE EXAGGERATING ...
I'M EXAGGERATING!?!
1/5
DANIEL SHELTON

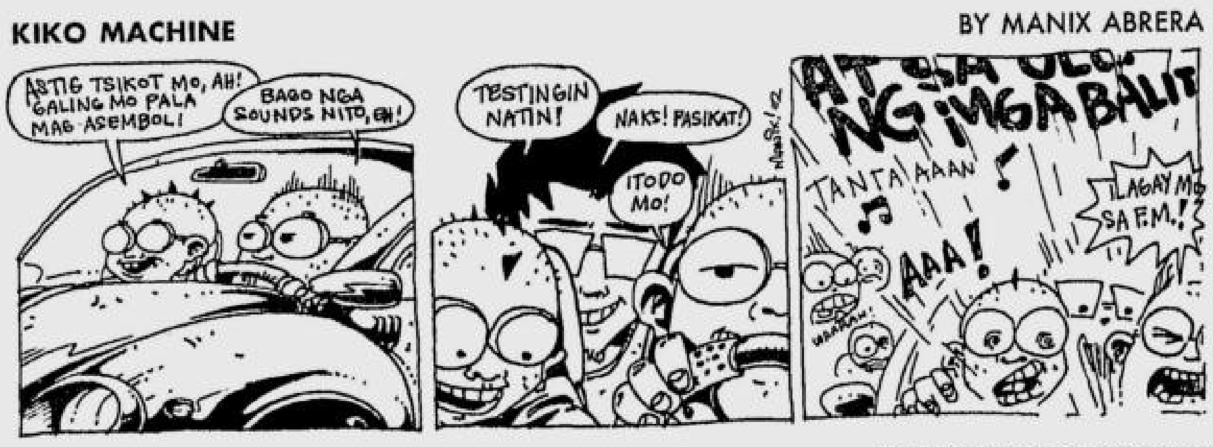
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


STOP PLAYING WITH THE BLINDS

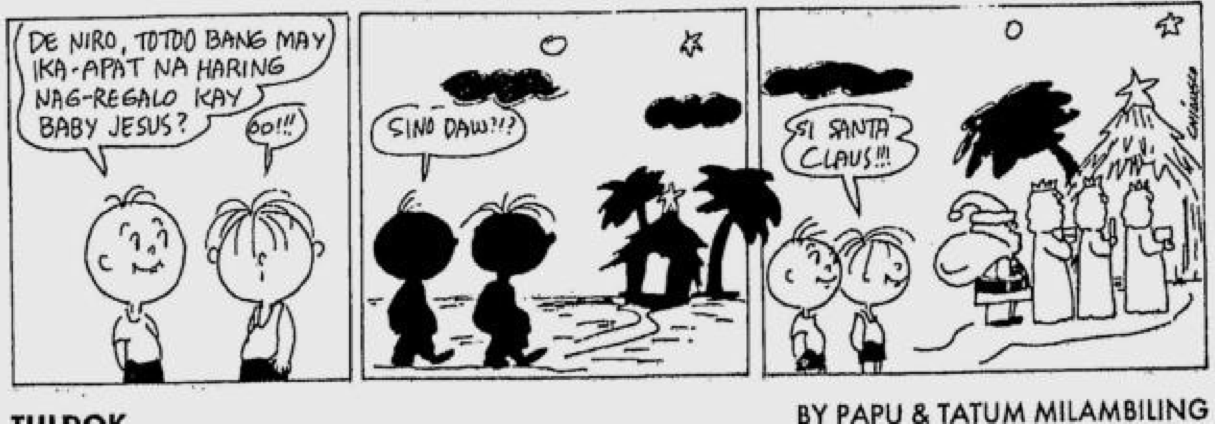
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ASTIG TSIKOT MO, AH! GALING MO PALA MAG-ASEMBOL!
BAGO NGA SOUNDS NITO, EH!
TESTINGIN NATIN!
NAKS! PASIKAT!
ITODO MO!
AT SA ULO NG MGA BALIT
TANTA AAAN
AAA!
ILAGAY MO SA F.M.!

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, TOTOO BANG MAY IKA-APAT NA HARING NAG-REGALO KAY BABY JESUS?
OO!!!
SINO DAW?!?
SI SANTA CLAUS!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING

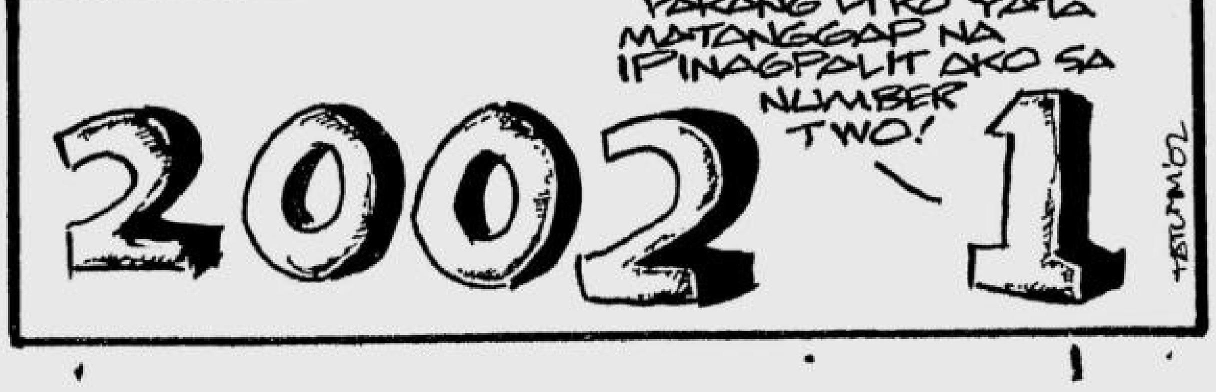

PARANG DI KO YATA MATANGGAP NA IPINAGPALIT AKO SA NUMBER TWO!
2002
1
TATUM '02

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

You can make your New Year's resolutions work

By Bunny Anne Gapit
2bU! Correspondent

MORE and more have become less resolute every January. Disbelievers of the traditional New Year's resolution have proliferated because most resolution makers fall into dissipation. But behavior-modification goals need not be difficult. The trick is to make feasible New Year's pledges, such as the following:

Daily resolutions

- Becoming aware of national issues by reading current events in the newspaper. This means checking the front page first before the horoscope.
- Building one's vocabulary. A new word a day means learning 365 new words in a year.
- Jumpstarting one's day with a little exercise in the morning.

Weekly

- Learning a new recipe by studying how mom cooks the day's meal or reading a cookbook, of course.
- Watching movies with friends in the cinema or at home and critiquing them like a Nestor Torre.
- Devoting time to one's hobby.

Monthly

- Catching up with one's correspondence by snailing or e-mailing kin and friends about the highlights of one's month.
- Purchasing a little something for oneself without overspending.
- Doing charity or volunteer work.

Quarterly

- Helping younger siblings review for their exams.
- Holding a family picnic.
- Developing new interests.

Semestral

- Redecorating one's room by moving around the furniture or changing the paint.
- Visiting a new province with one's school friends for a week after a half a year of academic stress.
- Holding a relaxing getaway for the family.

Annually

- Confessing one's dark secret to someone.
- Doing one's most embarrassing experience of the year.

Remember, man proposes but God disposes. Good luck and may your efforts bear fruit.

New year, new attitude

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

From the fireworks of the New Year spring forth promises that are given a 365-day deadline

THE DAWNING of a new year means a clean slate for many, who, like me, make New Year's resolutions. A practice started by the ancient Babylonians, the first resolutions were commitments to return borrowed farm equipment. Now, they consist of promises like quitting bad habits, losing weight, getting better grades, saving money. Whether these are empty promises made during drunken holiday parties or vows to change their attitude, here's a look at what some young people have resolved to fulfill in the next 365 days.

Not to procrastinate.—**Tara, 18, De La Salle University**

My New Year's resolution is to be on time. You have no idea...—**Therese, 17, Immaculate Conception Academy**

My first New Year's resolution is to shed off all the pounds I gained during the Christmas break.—**Austie, 18, Ateneo de Manila University**

Not to drink wine anymore. And also, not to eat too much.—**Sheslee, 17, University of the Philippines**

Improve on my academics *para maka*-graduate *agad*.—**Dexter Matilla, 19, University of Santo Tomas**

To care more for others and less for myself.—**Grace Saria, AdMU, 19**

"My New Year's resolution: stop eating, cramming, and being mean to Fabien. Start working out, studying, and...umm...becoming 'sweeter.' God help us all." — **Joni, 18**

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

To graduate, to lose weight, to save money, and not to empty the shelves of Star Wars merchandise.—**Tammy, 18, ICA**

To learn to speak Chinese.—**Kim, 18, Miriam College**

To be more patient and less selfish in my relationships with people.—**Jem Perez, 18, UP Diliman**

This year, I plan to cut down [on] my Internet hours. The holidays really turned me into an Internet freak. Oh, and I'll quit calling my sisters nerds and losers. I [also] really plan to save money this year and do some cost-cutting.—**Saleema, 17, Miriam College**

To make the most out of everything each day of 2002.—**Lester Leyva, 20, DLSU-D**

To live in the present and not in the past nor future. And to stop wasting time and get a hold of myself.—**Cher Tiu, 18, AdMU**

To be more of service to others by thinking less of myself.—**Yvette V, 22, UP**

Work on the goals I have set for myself this 2002.—**Cat Ang, 18, DLSU**

New Year's resolution *ko* [is] to be happy. Seize the day!—**Hawie, 16**

To cherish people and nurture relationships, and try to be more selfless. I also aim to trust more in God and not in my own strength.—**Stephen Roy Chua-Rojas, 24, UST**

To make the most of my [year] by spending my time wisely.—**China, 17**

I'm dead serious this time about saving part of my monthly salary and going to work via bus/jeep instead of a cab. It's cheaper that way.—**Cal-le Quitoriano, 24**

Be thinner.—**Steven, 17**

E-mail the author at unicorn@csl.com.ph

Guys will be guys

Or some things they will never change

By Jayvi Aruta
2bU! Correspondent

EVERY new year, people love to toy with ideas of how they'll be changing their lives for the better. Hence, the sad and sorry practice of making New Year's resolutions—long-winded promises that are promptly broken. In defiance of such tradition, I decided to make a list of things that guys *won't* change. In fact, don't even try to change them. These are things guys will be doing long after humans have passed household chores on to little robots, traveled at light speed and sprouted new appendages.

1. We will not stop eating fatty foods.

Cholesterol is what makes food good. That, and sugar, salt and MSG. If we didn't know it could kill us, we'd have *sisig* at every meal. Snacks would consist of *chicharon*, chips and peanuts. Dessert would be layers of all things sweet, hot or cold, drowned in chocolate fudge or some other syrup. But that would be another list.

Some herbivore once argued that gravy takes years off your life. Take it. We don't need the ones at the end anyway. They're the worst ones, aren't they? Mmm, gravy. You vegetarians can have your salads. We'll never eat foliage for a meal until we have no teeth with which to tear apart our steaks. Actually, when that happens, we'll get dentures. And when we feel our chests start to tighten up, well that's what the next thing is for.

2. A small percentage of our blood must be alcohol.

Or we will go insane. All that fat is dangerous. It could block arteries in your brain and give you a stroke! Whoa, we're not about to let that happen. Red wine has been proven to be good for the heart. We have taken it upon ourselves to prove that everything else works just as well.

The world gets half its humor from the ranks of inebriated males. How else would people get entertained at parties without all those "Once I was so drunk" stories and folks falling over each other? Half the women in the world would not get talked to without the warming wonder of liquid courage.

3. We will always listen and talk, but not during the game.

Whether it's Marv Albert or Quinito Henson who's talking, we listen. The world is tuned out, and we enjoy watching ESPN (at least those of us who still have it). It's hard to explain why we enjoy watching other guys sweat, regardless of how ridiculous what they're doing. It is actually puzzling why the ladies generally don't enjoy sports as much, seeing as they have more reasons to do so.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

What's wrong with knowing all sorts of numbers and records? One of them could win us a million bucks from Boyet de Leon or Edu Manzano. Yes, we do care about the stats on players. We care about what they're doing when they're not on the court. The long and short of it is, we care.

Call it irony, but the amount of sports we watch is inversely proportional to the energy we spend to remove our butts from the seats. If it weren't for beer and food, we may never get up. See how it's all coming together?

4. Technology will always turn us on.

Whether it's cars or gadgets with dictionary-thick manuals, we like them. If it has moving parts that can cause injury or death, better. If it can be taken apart with the risk of being irreparable, we'll take it. There aren't enough uses for a cellular phone. We probably wouldn't be satisfied until they could do our laundry and scratch our backs.

This also carries over to sci-fi and other shows where almost every other word spoken doesn't sound like English. Or how about video games? We love those simulations where every possible detail can be tweaked.

5. We can't help but fall asleep on the phone.

The simple truth that people spend about one-third of their lives asleep goes to show how important sleep is. It's probably the second most important thing to the body, or at least the next thing we prioritize after food and water. If it happens a lot, you're probably talking too much.

Blame those who should know better and just end the call. Then again, there are some of you who demand attention like it was your God-given right. Have a heart! In fact, *you* should be sorry for getting in the way of our bodies' natural schedule of events.

6. We will always show off with bodily functions.

We have a very simple belief: If your body can do it, it's okay to do it anywhere. In fact, whoever can do it louder and longer should be proud of it. Whether it's burping, passing gas or armpit noises, we just can't quit. Think of it as working toward a world record. But everything we do, girls do, too. Sometimes, even better. Why put effort into concealing all that talent?

We will pick our noses when we think no one's looking. We will ask you to pull our fingers. When we miss the toilet, we don't mean it. We're just aiming for the stain.

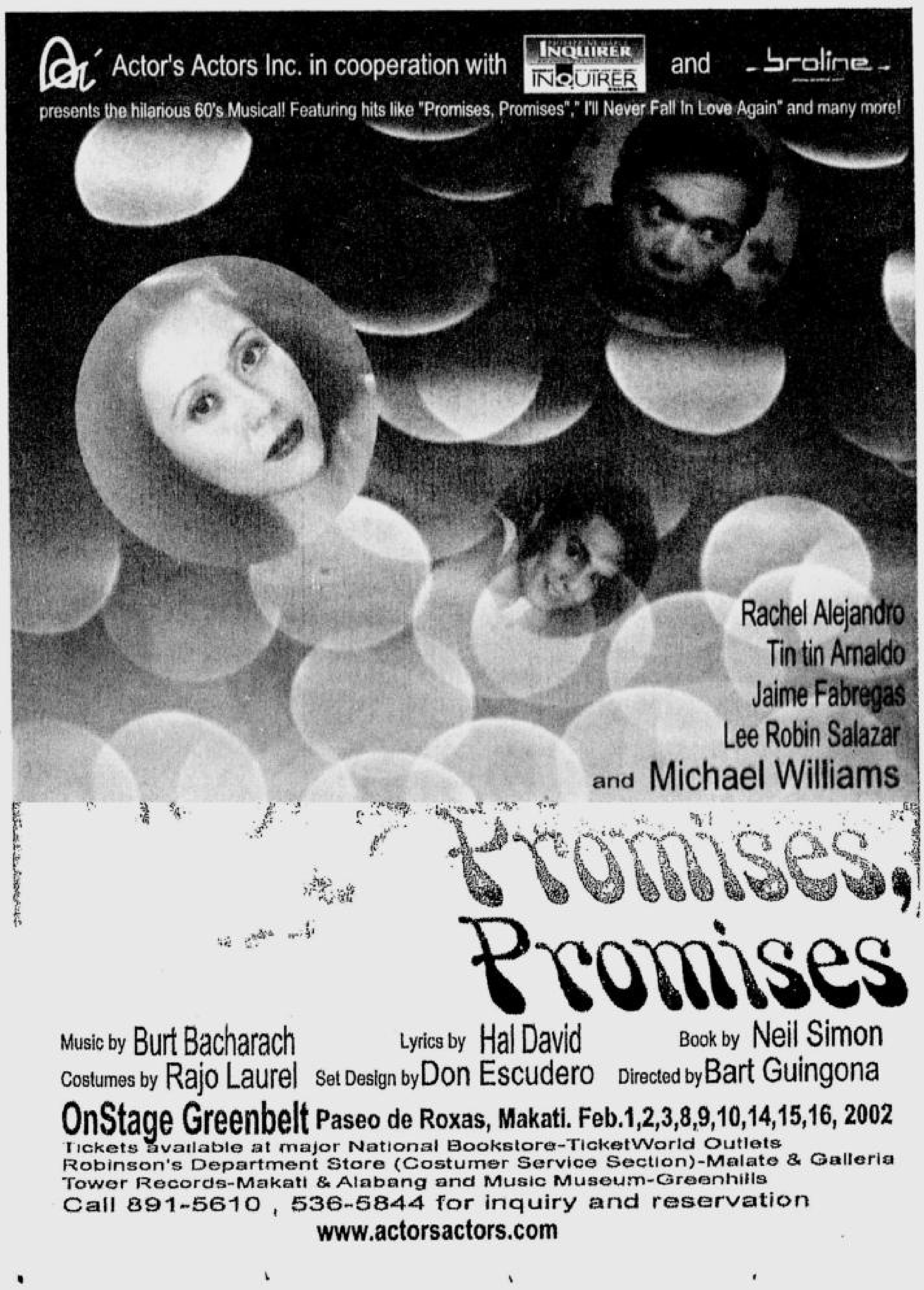
7. We're insensitive. It's genetic.

Maybe that's why it's called a Y chromosome. We can't help but ask "why," complete with a whiny voice and genuinely clueless expression. "You know a big bag of Doritos is not a meal." *Whyyy*? "We have to be dressed up to go to dinner." *Whyyy*? "I really like you." *Huhhh*? No wonder women have to be aggressive. And it's part of our culture that girls still act modestly.

Undoubtedly one of the primary sources of female frustration is male DNA. We wouldn't know better if you whacked us over the head with it. This also applies to the opposite, "Stay away from me." Only a man could think that "no" means "yes." Why would one in 10 women have a stalker?

We can't help but drive others crazy. Not all our dogs are barking either.

And speaking of why, why have I gone to so much trouble to explain facts of life that will far outlive us all? All for one reason—boys will be boys. Sorry, I thought everybody knew that. Uh-oh... *there's* another one.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Fellowship erases thoughts of young sorcerer

Heart-stopping and pulse-pounding, 'The Lord of the Rings' does justice to Tolkien's imagination and lives up to audience's expectations

By Catherine Young
And Tammy David
2bU! Correspondents

DISCLAIMER: We are not Tolkien fanatics. We've read the book and we've watched the movie, but we don't know how to speak Elvish, we're not part of any "LOTR" cult and we've never named our dogs Frodo. We're just average moviegoers who were blown away by the magnificence of the film. Here are some bits and pieces on "The Lord of the Rings" before you sit through the three hours of adventure in a place called Middle Earth.

Man behind the myth

If he were alive, John Ronald Reuel Tolkien (pronounced Tol-keen) would have been 110 years old on Jan. 3. He was born in South Africa, where his father decided to seek greener pastures. As a kid, the writer would make up his own languages for fun. He would specialize in Old and Middle English as an adult.

After his father's death, he returned to England with his family and lived pretty much on the genteel side of poverty. Tolkien served in the British Army during World War I, then embarked on a distinguished academic and literary career. He died Sept. 2, 1973 at the age of 81.

History of the ring

It was around 1933 when J.R.R. Tolkien started telling his kids about a creature named Bilbo Baggins. From these stories emerged the prelude to "The Lord of the Rings"—The Hobbit, published in 1937 by Stanley Unwin. It was so successful the publisher asked for a sequel. Tolkien completed this 11 years later, in three parts—"The Fellowship of the Ring," "The Two Towers" and "The Return of the King." It was not until the mid-'60s that the American paperback edition of "The Lord of the Rings" was released.

Although often mistaken for a trilogy, "The Lord of the Rings" is actually one novel in six books, sometimes published in three volumes. Tolkien's work has both been celebrated and condemned by critics in the literary world.

The fellowship

Frodo Baggins: A young hobbit and adopted cousin of Bilbo Baggins, he is entrusted with a ring that he must destroy.

Gandalf the Grey: The wise and powerful wizard, he aids Frodo in his quest.

Sam: Frodo's closest friend and bravest sidekick, he is assigned by Gandalf to accompany Frodo on his journey.

Pippin: A mischievous young hobbit, he also keeps Frodo company.

Merry: The fourth hobbit in the fellowship, he stays with Frodo until the ring is destroyed.

Aragorn: Rightful heir to the throne of Gondor, he is a human raised by elves and Arwen's love interest.

Legolas Greenleaf: The peacemaker, this elf from Mirkwood wields the bow and arrow.

Boromir: A proud warrior and the eldest son of Denethor II, he is caught between the good of Middle Earth and his own greed for power.

Gimli: This axe-wielder represents the dwarves in the Fellowship.

Arwen: The beautiful Elven princess, who gives up immortality to be with Aragorn, saves Frodo's life.

Galadriel: Queen of Lothlorien and Lady of the Golden Wood, she gives Frodo insight in his quest.

Saruman: Leader of the wizards, Saruman wants the ring for himself and betrays his comrade Gandalf.

The movie

While some still had to come down from the "Star Wars" high back in 1999, news, websites and auditions were starting for "The Fellowship of the Ring." Peter Jackson ("The Frighteners") takes the directorial job and recreates the middle earth in his native New Zealand. The budget is $300 million for all three movies, with the second and third installments due in December 2002 and 2003, respectively.

Heading the cast is Sir Ian McKellan ("X-Men") who is perfect as Gandalf the Grey, another action-filled role for him. Elijah Wood is Frodo, although some consider him too clean-looking and a bit chicken for the part.

The movie's cast also includes Christopher Lee as Saruman, Sean Astin as Samwise Gamgee, Viggo Mortensen as Aragorn, Liv Tyler as Arwen, Cate Blanchett as Galadriel and, the so-called heartthrob of the movie, Orlando Bloom as Legolas.

Glossary

The movie might confuse those not familiar with the book. Some of the terms used:

Hobbit: beardless little people about half a human's height and smaller than dwarves.

Orc: a foul race of creatures out to destroy the fellowship.

Middle Earth: setting of Tolkien's fantasy world.

Rivendell: land of the elves.

The Shire: where Frodo and the other hobbits live.

LORD OF THE RINGS

Fellowship facts

To complete the epic task of bringing Tolkien's magic to the big screen, director Jackson divided the production crew into six departments: creatures, special effects, makeup and prosthetics, armor and weapons, miniatures and model effects.

The movie used 250 horses, with miniature species for the hobbits.

Vegetables were planted months before filming to create an authentic Shire look.

After Tolkien's death, his third son and literary executor, Christopher, takes over the world of Middle Earth.

The movie recently won the AFI (American Film Institute) Movie of the Year award.

We recommend

"The Hobbit" should be read first, among the six books.

The Arwen and Frodo action figures at 999.75.

Www.lordoftherings.net and www.lordoftheringsmovie.com for movie info.

Toy Kingdom for the action figures available exclusively in SM.

Go to the restroom before watching the movie.

With a powerhouse cast and a great classic story line, the "Lord of the Rings" is definitely a movie you should see again and again. Heart-stopping and pulse-pounding, it does justice to Tolkien's imagination and lives up to audience's expectations.

Harry who? Anakin who?

E-mail Cathy at unicorn@csi.com.ph, and Tammy at chris_trent_thom@lycos.com

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